

Media Release

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Charity boss saddened by death of disability advocate Stella Young

“On behalf of myself and the Muscular Dystrophy community I offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Stella Young who unexpectedly passed away on Saturday evening at the age of 32,” said Muscular Dystrophy Australia’s Executive Director, Boris M Struk.

“Stella was a truly brilliant woman who was such a strong advocate for the disability sector and her strength rang not from a victim mentality but as someone who wanted equality for the disability community rather than special treatment,” said Mr Struk.

The family of Young recently advised of her passing via a public statement. Young was born with Osteogenesis imperfecta, which is commonly known as brittle bone disease.

“Her sentiment of wanting a fair go for those living with a disability teamed with her quick wit and smart humour made her a formidable, and well respected, voice within the community,” said Mr Struk.

Young told 720 ABC Perth in 2012, "Disability doesn't make you exceptional, but questioning what you think you know about it does."

“Her ability to speak up for the wider disability community and not just focusing on people with her same condition, saw her become a leader and her work, in particular with ‘Ramp Up’, provided much needed attention for our sector within the public sphere,” said Mr Struk.

“Our members wish not to be described as heroic or brave for simply living with a disability, rather they would like people to simply see past their physical differences and appreciate what they choose to do with their lives,” said Mr Struk.

To arrange an interview with Muscular Dystrophy Australia Executive Director, Boris M Struk, please contact:

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