

## Amanda Roberts Testimonial<sup>i</sup>



My name is Amanda Roberts and I have atopy in three manifestations: asthma, eczema and hay fever. Each one of these impacts upon my quality of life and is treated in a hierarchical fashion by my General Practitioner –who takes into account his priorities not necessarily mine - and in a silo by specialists. My asthma has always overshadowed my eczema. With strong, regular medication, my asthma is generally far better controlled than my eczema. But I struggle to get my eczema taken seriously.

When I was pregnant, and saw an obstetrician (another silo) I was not given any meaningful information about minimising the risks of atopy and neither were my children monitored as at risk. They have gone on to be diagnosed with eczema, asthma, hayfever, and anaphylaxis. All of which had to be done by different specialisms. In the case of the anaphylaxis, this was a particular struggle as our General Practitioner refused initially to accept that my son was reacting to a bag of peanuts being opened in his vicinity – and just told us to go away and stop feeding him peanuts!

So the health system has made my atopy a multimorbidity where to my life it is just one all-encompassing condition and in doing so has underserved my quality of life and that of future generations.

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