



Siblings find laughter best medicine

LAUGHTER was the best medicine for a group of North Queensland kids living with Cystic Fibrosis.

The camp was not for the kids who actually suffer from the disease but for their brothers and sisters who often get left out due to their sibling's illness.

Twelve-year-old Dylan Morris was at the camp to have fun with kids like him.

"I've got a sister, Megan, she's 14, and she's got (Cystic Fibrosis)," Dylan said. "Mum and Dad have to spend time with her and she usually goes into hospital often."

Dylan said the camp was fun but also helped him learn

more about cystic fibrosis.

"At camp we play games, do activities, there's campfire and talks," he said.

"But we find out a little bit more about cystic fibrosis.

"There's (a speaker) coming in on the last day to talk about how people get CF."

Ten kids aged from six to 12 camped at The Station at the weekend.

Purple Soup, which runs camps for Cystic Fibrosis Queensland (CFQ), organised the camp. It was the first regional camp for CFQ.

"Often families are caught up in the day-to-day regime of Cystic Fibrosis, which

sometimes means siblings feel they miss out on things," Purple Soup director Tim Marchinton said.

"Mum and Dad have to look after all those things, including hospitalisations and medications."

CFQ regional support officer Filiz Mortimer said it gave the brothers and sisters some respite.

"Cystic Fibrosis is a chronic disease, babies are born with it," Ms Mortimer said.

"The major affect is on the lungs, but other organs in the body too. The approximate age of survival at the moment is about 38."



MEDICINAL . . . camp director Tim Marchinton, Dylan Morris, 12, from Cairns and regional support officer Filiz Mortimer at the Cystic Fibrosis Camp held at The Station