



In memory of Giancarlo

By Jake Dean

SPARE a thought for **David Fiorentino** and his 14 mates, who have braved the heat of a gruelling bike ride from Melbourne to Adelaide to raise \$60,000 for a cause that's close to his heart.

The "Tour for a Cure" is an initiative of Karma for Kids – a fundraising group started by Mr Fiorentino and his wife **Bianca**, of Hazelwood Park, after their son **Giancarlo** died at 10 days old because of heart complications almost two years ago.

The cyclists arrived at the Women's and Children's Hospital on Sunday, March 9, having set off a week earlier from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Mr Fiorentino, who has only been cycling for five months, said the ride had been "intense" with temperatures in the high-30s for much of it.

His wife said the idea of a bike ride arose through their grieving for Giancarlo.

"We just looked at each other and said, you know, what we had to go through, there's a lot of people out there that go through the same thing," she said.



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Bianca Fiorentino

Giancarlo had to be transferred to the Royal Children's because the Women's and Children's didn't have the full facilities to operate on him.

The couple are now dedicated to raising funds for the Women's and Children's cardiology department to purchase new equipment including an ultrasound machine, a cardiac stress testing machine and a monitoring system.

Mr Fiorentino: "Basically this is going to be a lifetime thing for us, to try to help the Women's and Children's Hospital."

Plans are already being made for another bike ride, from Sydney to Adelaide in 2010.

"This time I'm coming too," Mrs Fiorentino said.

■ **To make a donation to Karma for Kids contact the WCH Foundation on 1800 008 483 or email info@wchfoundation.org.au.**



RIDING WITH HEART: David Fiorentino (pictured with wife Bianca and son Federico, 3) has ridden from Melbourne to Adelaide to raise funds for the WCH.
Picture: Keryn Stevens 70371