



Is this Australia's most amazing teenager? Meet the incredible young girl, 15, who is the full-time carer for her desperately ill mother... while juggling her own busy life

- Monique Maggie manages school and is the primary carer for her mother
- The 15-year-old looks after her mother diagnosed with chronic illnesses
- Monique has taken care of her mother since the age of ten
- Her mother is diagnosed with bone cancer and heart disease
- She juggles school, attending an acting academy and helping her mother
- She has been chosen as a finalist for the Young People Who Care Awards

By MARTHA AZZI FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED: 21:08 EST, 28 November 2015 | UPDATED: 23:29 EST, 28 November 2015



She's only 15-years-old but Monique Maggie has prioritised catering for her mum as a primary carer while also continuing school and having a social life.

Since the age of ten, Monique has looked after her mother Leanne Maggie at their home in Busselton, a regional city in the South West region of Western Australia.

Leanne was diagnosed with multiple chronic medical conditions including, bone cancer, heart disease, lupus and diabetes and needs constant care.

Recently Monique's efforts have been recognised, making it as a finalist in the 2015 Young People Who Care Awards.



© Monique Brooke Maggi

Monique Maggie, 15, (left) has been the primary carer of her mother (right) since the age of ten

'I've matured a lot faster but I wouldn't change it for the world,' Monique told Daily Mail Australia.

'I've matured a lot faster but I wouldn't change it for the world,' Monique told Daily Mail Australia.

Every morning Monique wakes up early to ensure her mother takes the right medication and prepares breakfast before heading to school.

Three days a week, Leanne is accompanied by a carer at home, when alone, Monique finds herself constantly peering at her phone while at school to ensure her mother is well.

'It's definitely been hard but my mum and me are very close, some days are harder than others but we just take it one day at a time,' she said.

Taking care of her mother at a young age it took some time before Monique was able to manage her time.



© Monique Brooke Maggi

Monique's mother, Leanne Maggie (centre), was diagnosed with multiple chronic medical conditions including, bone cancer, heart disease, lupus and diabetes



Monique also travels to Perth every week to take classes in an acting academy

'At first I would often drag a mattress next to mum's bed and sleep next to her, or I wouldn't sleep at all because I wanted to make sure she was okay.

'I wouldn't have time to get my assessments done and do my homework but my case worker from Red Cross messaged my teachers and told them what was going on.

'[Now] I come home and help mum for a bit then I'd get an hour of study in before cooking dinner, washing the dishes and doing other things like cleaning if I need to.'

SHARE THIS ARTICLE



Share

RELATED ARTICLES



'I'm ugly so I need to have a sense of humour': Meet the...



Outrage after more than 50 graves are defaced by vandals -...

As well as completing house chores, Monique manages to regularly travel with her mother approximately two-and-a-half hours to Perth, where she is able to undergo cancer treatment.

Despite having to say no to socialising with friends and deciding instead to stay home with her mother, Monique would have it no other way.

'We love each other 99.9 per cent of the time, we're both very stubborn so we have spats all the time and she is my best friend, she knows everything about me.'



© Monique Brooke Maggi

Monique (right) has been nominated as a finalist in the 2015 Young People Who Care Awards

Career driven, Monique also manages to travel to Perth every week in order to attend classes in an acting academy as she pursues her career in an acting and modelling.

A humble teenager, Monique was surprised to hear how far she had made it after being nominated for the awards.

'I was so surprised, there are others that do the same thing if not more than me.

'A lot of people think that it's this really big thing that I do and it's this massive task that I do for mum but for me I find it so simple and it's my way of showing her that I love her and I would care for her,' she said.

The winners for the Young People Who Care Awards, will be announced on December 8 at the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia.