



# From Ventilation to Victory: A Guillain-Barré Syndrome Recovery Story

How expert critical care at Melomed Mitchells Plain hospital helped one patient reclaim her independence.

Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is a rare but serious neurological condition that can progress rapidly, often leading to profound muscle weakness and, in severe cases, respiratory failure. Recovery is rarely straightforward - it demands early intervention, specialist expertise, and a strong multidisciplinary approach.

For Ms Siyasanga Mekuto (47), her journey through GBS became a powerful testament to the impact of timely, expert medical care and dedicated rehabilitation.

## A Sudden and Life-Threatening Diagnosis

Ms Mekuto presented to Melomed Mitchell's Plain Hospital in November 2025 under the care of Specialist Physician Dr Shakira Dawood with progressive weakness affecting both her upper and lower limbs.

Recognising the urgency and complexity of her symptoms, Dr Dawood led the clinical assessment that resulted in a diagnosis of Guillain-Barré Syndrome - a condition known for its rapid progression.

Within a short period, Ms Mekuto's condition deteriorated significantly. She developed respiratory muscle weakness, a serious complication of GBS, requiring urgent intubation and mechanical ventilation on 12 November 2025.

## Expert Critical Care at Melomed Mitchell's Plain

Due to the severity of her illness, Ms Mekuto was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Melomed Mitchell's Plain, where she received advanced critical care.

## Under the guidance of Dr Dawood and the ICU team, her treatment included:

- Continuous ventilatory support
- Close neurological and respiratory monitoring
- A tracheostomy performed on 21 November 2025 to support prolonged ventilation

Dr Dawood's expertise in managing complex medical cases, combined with the hospital's advanced ICU capabilities, ensured that Ms Mekuto received the high level of care required during this critical phase.

After several weeks of intensive treatment, her condition began to stabilise. A major milestone was reached when she was successfully weaned off ventilatory support on 5 January 2026.



## The Road to Recovery

Recovery from Guillain-Barré Syndrome is often long and unpredictable. However, at Melomed, care extends far beyond stabilisation—focusing on restoring function, independence, and quality of life.

With a structured rehabilitation programme and ongoing multidisciplinary support, Ms Mekuto made remarkable progress. She has now:

- Regained significant muscle strength
- Recovered functional mobility
- Achieved independent walking
- Her recovery highlights not only her resilience but also the importance of early specialist intervention and continuity of care.

## A Multidisciplinary Approach to Patient Care

Ms Mekuto's journey underscores the strength of a coordinated healthcare approach at Melomed Mitchells Plain Hospital.

From ICU specialists to physiotherapists and rehabilitation teams, her care pathway was carefully managed to ensure optimal outcomes. Dr Dawood's leadership in overseeing her treatment played a pivotal role in guiding her from critical illness to recovery.

## A Story of Hope and Expertise

Guillain-Barré Syndrome can be life-altering, but Ms Mekuto's journey - from mechanical ventilation to independent mobility, demonstrates what is possible with timely diagnosis, expert medical care and comprehensive rehabilitation.

Her story is not only one of personal triumph, but also a reflection of the clinical excellence and patient-centred care provided at Melomed Mitchell's Plain Hospital.

## For more information, please contact:

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