



Briana McFarland and Ryan Hauville train near Cronulla for their walk Picture: Simon Bullard

10-day trek to help mate

BRIANA DOMJEN

RYAN Hauville and Briana McFarland have watched their 28-year-old friend from university linger in a nursing home for the past eight years

He is one of 6500 young Australians living in an aged care facility.

Now Mr Hauville and Ms McFarland will trek 320km over 1000 sand dunes for 10 days to try to raise \$500,000 for Youngcare — an

organisation that aims to raise awareness about the lack of appropriate care and accommodation for young Aussies with high care needs.

The pair will leave on Tuesday for their march across the Simpson Desert — a route starting at East Bore in the Northern Territory and finishing at the eastern edge of the desert near Birdsville, Queensland.

For Mr Hauville and girlfriend Briana, it's a cause

close to their hearts. They have spent the past four months training and have already raised \$64,000.

“I have watched a good friend from university spend eight years in a nursing home,” Mr Hauville said.

“Another friend had an accident and was left requiring full-time care.”

About 700,000 young Australians needing full care are being looked after at home by family and friends.