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Elvis impersonator risks being admitted to intensive care for a Surfers Paradise performance

DOCTORS warned Sydneysider Nic Nicolas – who has been struck down with double pneumonia – that he could face organ failure as he checked himself out of Gold Coast University Hospital to compete.

Nicholas McElroy

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Nic Nicolas performing and winning the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest at VIVA on Sunday.

Gold Coast

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AN ELVIS impersonator “risked death” on the Gold Coast on Sunday to win a trip to The King’s Graceland mansion.

Doctors warned Sydneysider Nic Nicolas – who was struck down with double pneumonia – that he could face organ failure as he checked himself out of Gold Coast University Hospital to compete.

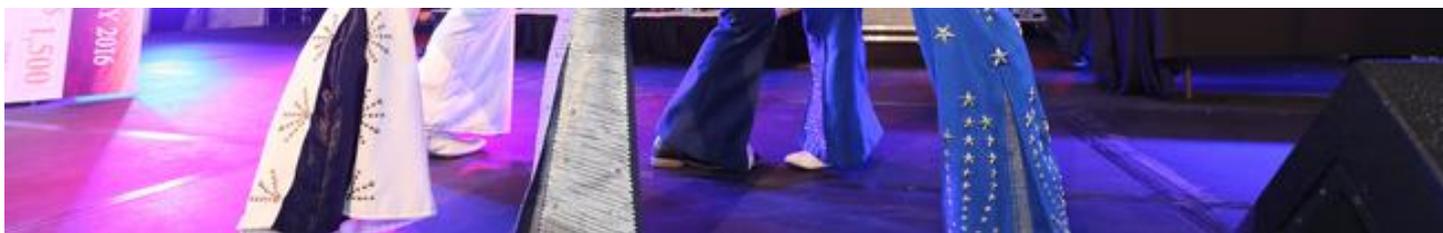


Elvis Impersonator Nic Nicolas left his Gold Coast University Hospital bed to perform at Viva Surfers Paradise, won, then checked back into hospital. Picture Glenn Hampson

But he was determined to appear in the final of the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest at Surfers Paradise.

“Fans were crying (after earlier shows), and they were saying, ‘Oh my God, you’re going to win’. I had to get there,” the 35-year-old said from his hospital bed yesterday. “I said, ‘I’ve got to go’.”





Nic Nicolas (left) next to his competition. Picture Mike Batterham

Mr Nicolas came down with a fever on Friday night and battled through preliminary rounds against 18 other impersonators on Saturday.

He sung songs including Patch It Up, How Great Thou Art and Never been to Spain but his condition deteriorated.

His mother Katherine called a doctor who said Mr Nicolas, a lawyer, needed to be hospitalised on Saturday night.



Nic gave it his all to win.

“They did tests and said I had really low oxygen saturation which was really bad because my organs could shut down,” he said.

“I started shivering and I couldn’t really breathe.

“So I got a taxi straight to the emergency room. (Doctors) said I’d be here for three days.”

But that didn’t fit in with his schedule.

“I said at 7am (Sunday) morning, ‘I’m leaving’.”



Nic Nicolas risked it all- and came out on top.

Doctors pleaded with him and said they would give him a second dose of antibiotics before he left hospital the next day.

“No one turned up at 6am, 6.30am or 6.45am so at 6.50am I got up to go and then a doctor ran over and said, ‘Where are you going?’ And I said, ‘I’m going to the Elvis competition’.”

He signed himself out of hospital and rushed to get ready for five high-energy ballads, complete with Elvis pelvis thrusts.

“Every time I spoke I would cough. I was shivering but I was sitting next to the heater,” Mr Nicolas said.





'Thank you very much.'

"I thought if I've come all this way, out of hospital and risked my life, I can push through it.

"I just went out and did it – I didn't think I was going to win at all."

The performance almost landed him in intensive care.

"Afterwards, I nearly collapsed, I nearly vomited in the emergency ward, the intensive care guys nearly took me because they came down and checked my vitals. I couldn't breathe at all."

Mr Nicolas, who's been an Elvis fan since he was four, is now resting after winning entry to Elvis Week 2017 in Memphis in August.

Fellow Elvis impersonator Stuey V watched Mr Nicolas perform on Sunday.

"Nic got up there and gave it 120 per cent," he said.

"All the fans and supporters never knew he was sick."

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