WELCOME
Graeme Shears (Chief Executive Officer)

Over the course of 2018 the Epilepsy Foundation has continued to work towards its vision that no one with epilepsy goes it alone. The provision of one-on-one support has seen our Client Services Team respond to an average of 120 wide ranging assistance requests every week. More than 3,750 people have been trained since January and, in response to growing demand, we have extended our training reach by partnering with Premium Health.

Recently we held our first online webinar for parents and carers of children living with epilepsy. *Epilepsy during the School Years* explored the impacts that epilepsy can have on young people and provided strategies for making the education journey as positive as possible. This webinar coincided with the national launch of the *Epilepsy Smart Schools* program, developed in Victoria but now nationally available to build a future where all Australian schools are ‘epilepsy smart’.

I’m also pleased to announce that the ‘Australian Epilepsy Research Fund’, managed by the Epilepsy Foundation, received a $2 million investment by the Australian Government to help find a cure for rare genetic epilepsy disorders. I am extremely grateful to the Australian Government for their forward thinking commitment to epilepsy research.

In this edition we provide community events, fundraising, media and organisational updates. And, in recognition of the recent National Volunteers Week, we also profile the contributions made by our passionate volunteers.

This edition also includes an interview with Fady and his mother Dalia. Fady talks about growing up with epilepsy, his neurosurgeries and future goals. Dalia discusses Fady’s diagnosis, her pride in his achievements and hope for a future where epilepsy is well understood in the community.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Epilepsy Matters*. 
The Australian Pregnancy Register (APR) is a national independent project that has been running for over 19 years nationally. The APR is an observational register which collects information about pregnant women with epilepsy, treated and untreated, to determine which anti-epileptic medications (AEDs) are safest for the baby while protecting the mother from seizures.

**Call for APR research participants**
The APR would benefit from a boost to the number of women participating in the study and an increase in the length of the study to ensure enough evidence is collected for the findings to become treatment guidelines.

The APR is currently seeking to enrol women who are currently pregnant or who have given birth recently (infants up to 12 months of age) in the following categories:

- women with epilepsy taking AEDs
- women with epilepsy not taking AEDs
- women taking AEDs for other conditions.

Participation is voluntary. Once enrolled there are no appointments or visits required for this study. Information is gathered during four telephone interviews (or a combination of depending on point of enrolment):

1. On enrolment
2. 7 months gestation
3. 4 - 8 weeks post-delivery
4. 1 year post-delivery.

All information is confidential and the APR team greatly appreciates the generosity of women who have shared their pregnancy journey so that they can continue to advise women in the future. The APR welcomes you contacting them.

**To enrol in the research**
Phone: 1800 069 722
Email: apr@mh.org.au
Website: www.apr.org.au
(click on the ‘Register Now’ button)

**For assistance and further information**
Janet and Alison, the Research Coordinators, are happy to discuss pre-pregnancy planning as well as respond to questions relevant to pregnancy, delivery, epilepsy and AEDs. In addition, they are able to provide current research-based information, and epilepsy and pregnancy resources.
Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association Conference

The Epilepsy Foundation was privileged to be invited to speak at the 10th annual Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) conference in Brisbane in May - and not only to escape the Melbourne rain for some Brisbane sunshine!

The conference had a fantastic program, ranging from better nutrition to self-management to immunisations. The conference focussed on the role of the ‘Nurseforce for the future’ and how crucial primary health nurses are to the betterment of our healthcare system.

As part of this vision, the Epilepsy Foundation presented on the education and training programs we have developed specifically for nurses, and how nurses can help people living with epilepsy and their families create comprehensive epilepsy management plans.

“The Epilepsy Foundation believes that the primary health care nurse could play a crucial role in helping to improve the lives of people living with epilepsy, and the Epilepsy Foundation wants to work with nurses to achieve this end!”

Genetic Epilepsy Team Australia (GETA) Family Conference

The Epilepsy Foundation was also very grateful to be able to support and attend the 2018 GETA conference in Melbourne. This conference and the amazing work that the GETA group have been doing is testament to the incredible work and advocacy of some families of children living with epilepsy.

Specifically, GETA is a group of parents whose children have rare genetic epilepsy. They have teamed up with world leaders in the field of genetic epilepsy to achieve the goal of supporting the ground-breaking research that happens right here in Australia and New Zealand.

Some of this research, as well as that occurring in the USA and Canada, was showcased on the day. Parents and siblings of children living with genetic epilepsies also shared their experiences. Listeners tuned in to the livestream from all over the world.

The 2018 GETA conference was more than a series of talks, it was the meeting and establishing of a community of incredible families working hard to make a difference for people living with epilepsy.

If you are interested to know more about GETA, you can find them on …

Facebook: @genetic.epilepsy.team.australia
Twitter: @geneticepilepsy

Or you can access recordings of the sessions via: geneticepilepsyteam.com.au/conference
Research Project – ‘Body image and epilepsy’

A research project is currently being undertaken by The University of Melbourne in collaboration with the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and the Epilepsy Foundation, looking at the impact of epilepsy on body image. In particular, this study is looking at body dissatisfaction and whether it might contribute to depressive symptoms in people with and without epilepsy.

Ultimately, the aim of this research is to help improve the quality of care provided to people with epilepsy, through better awareness and the development of effective treatment strategies for body dissatisfaction.

Volunteers wanted
The investigators are searching for volunteers, between the ages of 18 and 65, who have a diagnosis of epilepsy or know someone with epilepsy, as well as those without epilepsy.

Involvement includes completing an online questionnaire asking about body image, mood and medical history, which takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Contact information
If you would like any further information concerning this project please feel free to contact Dr Genevieve Rayner or Ms Honor Coleman, on the below information:

Dr Genevieve Rayner
Email: raynerg@unimelb.edu.au

Ms Honor Coleman
Telephone: (03) 8809 0654 (Tues & Wed)
Email: hcoleman@epilepsyfoundation.org.au
research@epilepsyfoundation.org.au

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) stakeholder survey

Each year the TGA asks for feedback from all stakeholders including health professionals, the medical products industry, academics, consumers of therapeutic goods and more. This helps them measure satisfaction with a range of services and activities including their role and performance. The TGA uses the feedback received to continually improve the way they support and interact with stakeholders.

The consumer survey takes approximately 6 – 8 minutes to complete and is open until the 20th of July 2018.

To access the survey go to -
https://healthau.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Ko22MMcUpr3lHz

Results from the survey will be made available later in 2018.
We know how important it is for people with epilepsy and their families to understand their epilepsy, to learn how to best manage their condition, and to feel supported. Peer support is a wonderful way of connecting with others who may be in a similar situation. We run a number of peer support groups and events throughout the year to facilitate people living with epilepsy and their families to connect with others.

Our Family Activity Day, held in March, brought together families from across Victoria who care for children under 18 years who are living with epilepsy. This was a day for parents, children and siblings to ‘let loose’ and have some fun in a safe and understanding environment. There was hardly a dull moment while attendees met wild animals, had comic drawing lessons, had their face painted, watched a balloon animal creation and made faces in the very popular photo booth! This day was made possible through a very generous donation from two of our volunteers, for which we are incredibly thankful. There were very happy faces at the end of the day and we look forward to running a similar one in the future.

The ‘Parent 2 Parent’ morning tea was also held in May, providing an opportunity for parents of children under 18 years to meet, share their stories and experiences and connect in a safe space. Two parents opened the event by sharing their personal journeys of parenting a child with epilepsy. There was laughter and tears and many parents spoke of the benefits of realising that they are not alone in their experience. The response was overwhelmingly positive and as one parent commented “it was a simple recipe and it was all that was needed”.

The month of May also featured National Volunteer Week during which the fabulous work of our amazing and generous volunteers was publicly celebrated. Without the support of volunteers we would be unable to run our peer groups, events and much of our operations. For that we humbly thank them all.

We have a range of Peer Support Groups and events running throughout the year. Find out more by visiting our Group Support webpage http://epilepsyfoundation.org.au/group-support/ or contacting our Information Line on 1300 761 487.

Expression of Interest

Are you a parent of children, under 18 years, living with epilepsy? If so, we are keen to know whether you are interested in attending a Family Day in 2019 in the Melbourne area? The day will provide a chance for parents to talk with others and for children to connect whilst enjoying some family fun. Email us at groupsandevevents@epilepsyfoundation.org.au to register your interest.
Meet the Education and Training Team

These are the friendly faces of your Education and Training Team who work closely with families, schools and businesses to build their capacity and confidence in understanding and supporting the needs of children and adults living with epilepsy.

Team members train people in the community to understand epilepsy, develop Epilepsy Management Plans and Emergency Medication Management Plans; and administer emergency medication.

Kelly Ogden
Kelly has been working as an epilepsy educator at the Epilepsy Foundation for nearly three years. She has a background in paediatric nursing both in the hospital setting and in the community. Kelly started training carers as part of her work for the RCH@home program 13 years ago, an experience which ignited her passion for community education. Kelly absolutely loves talking with families and, in doing so, learns more and more about epilepsy and the impacts that it can have on people’s lives.

Kelly is a mother to two wonderful children, 13-year-old Zoe and nine-year-old Alex. Kelly’s ideal way to wind down is to head to the hills and go bushwalking.

Margaret Jarvis
Margaret brings many years of experience as a registered nurse to her work, with 20 years as a School Nurse in a large secondary school in the public school system. Margaret continues to be involved in the Victorian School Nurses Network and is also a First Aid Trainer. She is an experienced nurse educator having delivered Epilepsy Foundation epilepsy education programs and medication training for the last two years.

Margaret has found that her background in the school environment has been an asset as much of the education and training she delivers for the Epilepsy Foundation in learning environments as well as in the disability sector. She loves to see caregivers and staff gain confidence in caring for people with epilepsy.

Dora Petris
Dora brings a long history of work in the community sector to her role as Education and Training Manager at the Epilepsy Foundation. Dora has a strong understanding of the role of the community support worker and the challenges that individuals in their care face on a daily basis.

Dora appreciates the importance of training in order to reduce risk and improve client outcomes. Dora is an experienced trainer committed to improving and enhancing workplace knowledge.
Did you know that the Epilepsy Foundation offers a range of online and face-to-face training programs to people living with epilepsy and all those who support them?

Through our education and training programs we build the capacity of individuals and families, organisations and the community to better understand and support the needs of a person living with epilepsy. In this way we are working towards creating an ‘epilepsy smart’ Australia.

Our training programs include:
- An introduction to Understanding and Managing Epilepsy
- Understanding the Epilepsy Management Plan
- Understanding Emergency Medication
- Administration of Emergency Medication

Since January the Epilepsy Foundation has trained around 3,750 people, with 35% participating in face-to-face training and 65% accessing our online learning.

Very soon we will be launching advanced and sector-specific epilepsy training courses for registered nurses, aged care workers and disability support workers; professionals who care for people living with epilepsy on a daily basis. Watch this space for the formal launch of these programs very soon.

If you have any queries about our training programs contact us via:

Email: edutra@epilepsyfoundation.org.au
Phone: 1300 761 487

The Epilepsy Foundation is extending its training reach by partnering with Premium Health to ensure people living with epilepsy are supported throughout Victoria and NSW. On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation Premium Health is delivering our face-to-face training in metropolitan, regional and remote areas.

Premium Health is a registered training organisation which has been delivering health outcomes for Australian workforces for 30 years. Premium Health has a team of passionate and experienced nurses, paramedics and mental health practitioners who deliver quality training. Large businesses, universities and government departments across Australia use Premium Health as their preferred training provider.

To learn more or book epilepsy-related training with Premium Health call the Epilepsy Foundation on 1300 761 487
Fady and Dalia's Story

The last years of school are a busy time when young people are becoming more independent, learning new skills and considering what the future holds.

For Fady, a 16 year old from Melbourne, that time is now. Fady is currently in Year 11 undertaking his Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and enjoying his senior years at school. Part of this program involves attending TAFE and he recently completed a community services placement to gain on-the-job retail experience and other important skills for the future. Fady also happens to have been diagnosed with epilepsy as an infant.

Talking with Dalia, Fady's mother, it was clear she is very proud of Fady's achievements, “especially after what he has been through to get control over the seizures that started when he was a baby”. Fady has had three neurosurgical procedures to treat his epilepsy - at nine years, 12 years and the final one when he was 15 years old. Since his final surgery, Fady no longer experiences the seizures that were a daily occurrence in his childhood.

At one and a half years of age, while living in Egypt, Fady had his first tonic-clonic seizure at home. The experience was terrifying for Dalia, and she did not know what was happening. “Initially our GP in Egypt thought the seizure was as a result of a high fever. But when we immigrated to Australia in 2008 Fady started having a range of different seizures which led to a referral to Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. After testing, Fady was diagnosed with epilepsy,” recounted Dalia. “I didn't know what epilepsy was, so it came as a shock to my husband and I when the doctors said that was the cause of his seizures.”

After diagnosis, Fady continued to experience a range of different seizure types, including ongoing tonic-clonic, absence and focal impaired awareness seizures. Despite the best efforts of Fady's paediatric neurologist, the prescribed anti-epileptic medications (AEDs) were not controlling the seizures and Fady was experiencing side-effects that impacted his ability to learn and participate at school. “So the doctors thought surgery might help Fady and they began lots of testing to check if he was a good candidate,” explained Dalia.

Fady was nine when he had his first right temporal lobe neurosurgery and 12 when he had his second surgery. Initially the surgeries led to better seizure control but, as can be the case with any epilepsy surgery, Fady's seizures returned a few months after each. When Fady was 15 the medical team felt that use of intracranial grids and electrodes prior to his third surgery could optimise success. “Although it was a big decision, we thought another surgery really could be the answer to our prayers, and because Fady was a little bit older we made sure he was part of the discussions so he knew what was going to happen,” recounted Dalia.

Any epilepsy-related surgery is assessed by a medical team in terms of benefits and risks, and explained to patients and families to assist them in making an informed decision. Not all people living with epilepsy are suitable candidates for surgery. The risks vary according to each person, the type of surgery and the area of the brain that's involved.

Fady was part of the pre-surgery conversations, the pre-surgical testing and even recalls the benefits and risks being explained to him.
“I was told I might have memory problems and that my eyesight could be affected, but I didn’t want to have seizures anymore so I wasn’t too worried,” said Fady.

Fady’s surgery was a great success and now, almost two years on, he is still seizure free; an outcome he describes as “amazing and a big relief”. The surgery did end up affecting Fady’s peripheral vision, which may impact his ability to drive in the future.

Fady and Dalia have been connected to the Epilepsy Foundation for many years and through this connection they have been able to attend events and meet other families. Connecting with others has been an important part of their journey, and talking to other families living with epilepsy means they don’t feel alone. Through support from Epilepsy Foundation staff, teachers at Fady’s school have received epilepsy training based on his ‘Epilepsy Management Plan’ should he ever experience a seizure at school. “We want teachers to know what to do,” explained Dalia.

As part of his VCAL studies Fady is now undertaking a Certificate II in Community Services, which involved a weekly placement at a local Op Shop connected to a disability services organisation. “I loved working at the Op Shop as I was getting lots of support from my supervisor to know what to do and assist people who come into the shop,” said Fady. Although Fady is not yet sure what pathway he would like to take when he finishes school he is seriously considering more training and a career in community services, so that he can continue to help other people.

Fady and Dalia’s lived experience with epilepsy has made them adamant that more people in the community need to understand epilepsy.

“Primary school was a bit hard for me as I had a lot of seizures, so I really want everyone to understand that just because you have epilepsy you aren’t different to other people. You just have seizures,” emphasised Fady.

Dalia is a firm believer in ensuring that teachers gain an understanding about how epilepsy affects students. “A lot of teachers don’t know about epilepsy, which means they don’t always understand how tiring seizures and medications can be for a child. So, I think it’s important that all teachers learn about epilepsy and give students who have epilepsy all the support they need to learn and make friends,” stated Dalia.

The Epilepsy Foundation is grateful to Fady and Dalia for sharing their story and for being passionate advocates for people living with epilepsy. We look forward to being part of Fady’s ongoing journey to independence and desire to ensure that others living with epilepsy are understood in the community.
The Epilepsy Foundation runs Op Shops across seven Melbourne suburbs! Our Op Shops are positive and friendly community hubs where volunteers, customers and staff have a chance to support people living with epilepsy.

The recipe for our Op Shop success is simple – the generosity of the dedicated volunteers who work in our retail stores and the donation of quality goods by the public.

Our volunteers really are the backbone of our stores, and we couldn’t offer the public a great retail experience without their creativity, customer service skills and desire to support those living with epilepsy.

Our Op Shop volunteers are motivated by a belief in the Epilepsy Foundation, a desire to ‘give something back’ to the community and chance to meet others in a professional and supportive working environment.

In the past year our Op Shop volunteers collectively donated 40,000 hours to ensure our shops stay ‘up and running’ and we are honoured to call them part of our team.

In addition to supporting people living with epilepsy, our Op Shops also play an important role in providing local communities with quality, affordable recycled clothing, furniture and goods. We work to ensure our shops are part of the fabric of the local community, a place where people can connect, as well as a great spot for some retail therapy!

If you are looking to volunteer your time or want to find a treasure in one of our Op Shops why not get in touch or visit us. For more information about how to apply to become a volunteer or where to find our shop locations visit http://epilepsyfoundation.org.au/op-shops/

Three smiling volunteers!

If life was an Instagram page, #kindness, #compassion and #benevolence would be trending because of our volunteers. Thanks for volunteering.

(Tash, Op Shop Manager)

Through our Op Shops
You helped us support the principles of environmental sustainability ‘recycle, reuse and repurpose’ through Op Shop giving and purchases, while raising money to support our vision.

66,310 customers
5 stores raising $151,000

2016/17 statistics
Thank you to our volunteers

Australia recently celebrated National Volunteer Week in recognition of the millions of Australians who generously give of their time to help others.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the grateful beneficiary of selfless volunteering from people of all walks of life who share their skills, experience and time to assist us in ensuring that no one with epilepsy goes it alone.

Our volunteers work in our Op Shops, in our office, support our Peer Support Programs and our public events and we enjoy having them as part of our Epilepsy Foundation family. We thank every single one of our volunteers for all of the support they have donated in the past 12 months.
Get your shoes on and *Walk for Epilepsy*

Join in on Sunday 21 October 2018 at Princes Park Carlton for the inaugural *Walk for Epilepsy*. It’s a day where we can show our support for those we dearly love who have epilepsy.

People living with epilepsy are encouraged to say “Walk with me”. Friends and family can support loved ones who are living with epilepsy by showing that they are not alone.

For more information and to register please visit our website [www.walkforepilepsy.com.au](http://www.walkforepilepsy.com.au) or phone 1300 437 453

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**Webinar - Epilepsy during the School Years**

On the 5th of June, the Epilepsy Foundation held its first webinar for parents – *Epilepsy during the School Years* – which was proudly supported by UCB and MyEpilepsyTeam.

The webinar featured presentations from Dr Silvana Micallef, a Clinical Neuropsychologist who has worked in the area of paediatric epilepsy for more than 15 years, and Rheana Nation, whose teenage son lives with Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy and is one of our Client Services Team.

The webinar was specifically designed for those who care for children living with epilepsy and explored how epilepsy can impact a child’s education, learning and social networks.

Drawing upon clinical, research and lived experience the webinar provided practical strategies aimed at positively enhancing the experiences of children and young people with epilepsy during the important schooling years.

Participants indicated that the webinar was “extremely valuable”, provided “practical advice” and many now felt more confident to talk to teachers about their child’s epilepsy.

If this topic interests you we encourage you to visit our [YouTube channel](http://youtube.com) and watch it at a time that best suits you.

The direct link to the webinar is - [https://youtu.be/Y-eVeRrOtjY](https://youtu.be/Y-eVeRrOtjY)
Epilepsy Smart Schools is now national!

We are very proud to announce that Epilepsy Australia is supporting the national launch of our Epilepsy Smart Schools program. This evidence-based program was developed to support schools to provide a safe and inclusive educational environment for students living with epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a very misunderstood condition in our community, and around 1 in 200 students are living with epilepsy. The Epilepsy Smart Schools program aims to positively support everyone in school communities and seeks to create generational change through better understanding of epilepsy.

To become a recognised Epilepsy Smart School, schools must complete three important steps:

1. Demonstrate that the school supports any known student living with epilepsy.
2. Ensure all teachers with a duty of care have received epilepsy specific training.
3. Educate students about epilepsy.

Parents and carers want to know that their child is in safe hands, getting the best education they can and are able to participate in all school and community activities. Teachers want to know that they can support all students within their class to participate fully. Training provided as part of the Epilepsy Smart Schools program allows these wants to be achieved.

A recognised Epilepsy Smart School is one that understands epilepsy and puts in place inclusive practices to support all students living with epilepsy achieve their learning potential and develop positive social relationships.

The Epilepsy Foundation has been working with the Victorian Department of Education to update their ‘Epilepsy and Seizure Policy’. The policy sets out the requirement that all government school staff with a duty of care for a student living with epilepsy MUST complete epilepsy specific training, which the Epilepsy Foundation provides.

All pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools and special schools are eligible to become recognised as an Epilepsy Smart School.

If you would like to learn more about how your school can become a recognised Epilepsy Smart School, please visit the website - www.epilepsysmartschools.org.au
**Memorial Service**

On the 27th of May the Epilepsy Foundation held its 9th biennial Epilepsy Memorial Service; a chance for the community to come together to remember and celebrate those who have died through epilepsy.

The Memorial Service provides family, friends and Epilepsy Foundation staff an opportunity to support each other and share in the memories of those no longer with us.

Many attendees commented that the Memorial Service provides them with a chance to remember their loved one, as well as connect with and support others who know only too well what a loss through epilepsy means.

The Epilepsy Foundation is here to support anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one who lived with epilepsy. Our belief is that no one with epilepsy should go it alone, and we extend our support to anyone affected by loss through epilepsy. Feel free to contact us on 1300 761 487 to speak to an Epilepsy Support Worker.

You may want to consider speaking to your doctor or healthcare provider if you need assistance in dealing with your grief. You may also want to consider contacting Lifeline (13 11 14) or Beyond Blue (1300 22 46 36) for crisis support.

**Would you like tickets to see Circus Quirkus?**

Circus Quirkus is a contemporary take on your favourite, traditional circuses of ages past. It is an eclectic and entertaining mix of Circus acts brought to you from all over the world. Internationally renowned Clowns, Jugglers, Acrobats, and more deliver funny, hugely engaging and sometimes death-defying acts of unbelievable skill.

The show is suitable for audiences of all ages, big and small, and venues will accommodate wheelchairs.

Free tickets have been made available for Epilepsy Foundation clients to attend Circus Quirkus at the following locations in August:

- Melbourne MCEC - Saturday 4th August (11am, 2pm, 5pm)
- Bendigo Stadium - Sun 5th August (12.30pm)
- Geelong Arena – Monday 6th August (12.30pm, 5pm)

If you are interested in FREE tickets to Circus Quirkus, please email groupsandevents@epilepsyfoundation.org.au or call 1300 761 487 and provide the following information:

- family name and address
- which show you wish to attend (venue and time)
- total number of tickets required (adults + children).
The Hon. Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2018

$2 million for medical research on epilepsy

The Turnbull Government will invest $2 million in new medical research to help find a cure for rare genetic epilepsy disorders.

I am pleased to make this announcement on Purple Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of the brain that affects people of all ages, with around 250,000 Australians living with the condition.

This new funding will support our leading researchers to investigate genetic and other causes of epilepsy including the mutation of the Syngap gene, a rare neurological condition which can lead to epilepsy.

The SYNGAP-1 project will be the first project undertaken by the Australian Epilepsy Research Fund, and will be led by researchers from the respected Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health.

The Australian Epilepsy Research Fund has been established by the Epilepsy Foundation to provide Australians living with genetic and other types of epilepsy hope for the future through medical research.

The Epilepsy Foundation works with individuals and families, organisations and the community to increase people’s understanding of epilepsy.

I want to thank the Epilepsy Foundation for their tireless commitment in supporting people living with epilepsy and their families, and for their work to establish a medical research fund to fight epilepsy.

It is my hope that this funding contributes to a medical breakthrough that will improve the lives of people living with this condition.

Since 2013 the Coalition Government has invested more than $58 million for epilepsy research through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The Turnbull Government spent more than $71 million on the PBS for medicines to treat epilepsy in 2016-17.

All Australians benefit from the investment in health and medical research.
Epilepsy in the media

Some recent Australian and international news articles related to epilepsy which might interest you ...

**Epilepsy and seizure prediction - ‘All In The Mind’, ABC, Radio National**
“If you’ve ever witnessed someone having an epileptic seizure you’ll know how frightening it is. And if you have epilepsy you’ll know that the unpredictability of seizures severely impacts your life. ... Researchers are now using AI technology to develop a wearable seizure forecaster.”

This radio program, which features internationally renowned neurologist and Epilepsy Foundation Board Member Prof. Mark Cook, can be read or downloaded from www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/allinthemind/epilepsy-and-seizure-prediction/9783770

**Melbourne woman first in the world to be fitted with epilepsy device - 7 News**
‘The Minder’ device, developed in Melbourne, tracks epileptic seizures and is a potential game-changer according to researchers.

To view this news story visit https://au.news.yahoo.com/melbourne-woman-first-world-fitted-085205180.html

**Epilepsy: My emotions are heightened and I’m overwhelmed by difficult or upsetting situations – The Journal (Ireland)**
Actress Eva-Jayne Gaffney talks about the benefits of having a supportive network around you when first diagnosed with epilepsy ...

To read Eva-Jayne’s story visit www.thejournal.ie/author/eva-jayne-gaffney/5960/

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**Play for Purpose Raffle**

The Epilepsy Foundation is a charity chosen to participate in the online ‘Play for Purpose’ raffle.

The Epilepsy Foundation receives $15 for each $25 ticket sold. Prizes include $500K in gold bullion, a $150K luxury car package, a $25K travel experience, a $10K travel escape, $5K travel recharge plus thousands of additional prizes.

To purchase a ticket visit - https://playforpurpose.com.au/epilepsy-foundation
Unlike many members of MyEpilepsyTeam the daily burden of epilepsy can feel unrelenting even when we're surrounded by loving friends and family.

MyEpilepsyTeam is the social network for those diagnosed with epilepsy, or the parent or spouse of someone who is living with epilepsy. It's the one place where the burden of epilepsy is let go.

MyEpilepsyTeam is a safe place completely dedicated to those diagnosed with epilepsy and their primary caregivers, and is not for researchers or health providers, and it is not a medical site. It's available 24/7 to members who share similar experiences. But the conversation goes beyond medication. It extends to every day ups and downs. The small wins, the hard days, the big achievements of daily life.

Click on the links below for some of what you can find here:

Driving and Epilepsy

Relationships and Epilepsy

Working and Epilepsy