A Snapshot of epilepsy in Tasmania

20,000 Tasmanians develop epilepsy during their lifetime

55% are on low incomes - half below the poverty line

80,000 family members, carers and friends are also affected

An increasing number of older people are being diagnosed with epilepsy

Only one third of Tasmanians with epilepsy drive their own car

53% of Tasmanians living with epilepsy experience discrimination at some point in their life, and 51% of those within the last 12 months.

Epilepsy is up to 8 times more common in people with other health conditions such as depression, dementia, heart disease and arthritis, which further affects seizure outcome and quality of life.
About Open Gardens for Epilepsy

Thank you for your interest in Open Gardens for Epilepsy.

Since 2017 we have been encouraging Tasmanians to open their gardens to increase awareness of epilepsy within relaxed environments and reduce the discrimination still endured in our state.

Open Gardens for Epilepsy events are an excellent opportunity to make new friends while raising funds for Epilepsy Tasmania, a charity that has been helping Tasmanians for over 40 years.

Epilepsy Tasmania is proud and excited to partner with Blooming Tasmania for Open Gardens for Epilepsy and thanks them for their invaluable support.

Around 100,000 Tasmanians are affected by epilepsy and opening your garden will help provide them with the services and support they need, including:

- Epilepsy Friendly Workplace training.
- Epilepsy Connect telephone-based peer support service.
- Epilepsy Smart Schools resources and training.
- Open Gardens for Epilepsy events.
- Personalised Support for individuals and families.
- Disability resources and training.
- Older Tasmanians resources and training.

Sharing your garden with the public for Epilepsy Tasmania’s Open Gardens for Epilepsy is an easy 3-step process that you can start right now:

**Step 1**
Read the information in this Open Gardens for Epilepsy document.

**Step 2**
Complete the application form at the end of this document.

**Step 3**
Mail your completed registration form to PO Box 1834, Launceston, TAS 7250
Or email it to admin@epilepsytasmania.org.au

Epilepsy Tasmania is excited to have you take part in Open Gardens for Epilepsy and will support you all the way.

If you have any queries, please telephone Epilepsy Tasmania on 1300 852 853.

ABN 18 186 427 891
Common Questions

Is My Garden Suitable for an Open Garden?

Our rule of thumb is that your garden should be able to hold a visitor’s attention for about 30 minutes. Visiting other open gardens will give you an idea of the general standards and a chance to talk to the owners and find out what is involved and how they went about it.

There are many types of gardens that people are interested in visiting and various things they hope to see and learn while there:

- **A diversity of plants or unusual plants**: to learn about new plants.
- **Healthy, flourishing plants chosen to suit the conditions and climate**: to learn what grows in the local environment.
- **Pleasing and creative plant combinations or design ideas**: to learn how to put plants together and improve the garden layout.
- **A relaxing garden atmosphere**: for an enjoyable outing.
- **A disability-friendly garden**: with access for wheelchairs and walkers.
- **A sensory garden**: that provides stimulation through touch, sight, sound and scent.
- **A garden that reflects the individuality of the owner**: for a bit of fun.
- **A productive, food-producing garden**: to provide ideas on what is possible.
- **A sustainable, environmentally-friendly garden**: for inspiration.

Why Should I Open My Garden?

- To **show off** your hard work.
- To **inspire** or **educate** others.
- To **share** your passion for gardening.
- To **raise awareness** of epilepsy and how it affects Tasmanians.
- To **raise funds** for Epilepsy Tasmania so they can continue providing services and **support for Tasmanians affected by epilepsy**.

Do I Need Insurance?

Yes. Before opening your garden to visitors, it is advisable to have public liability insurance. If you are opening under the authority of a school, garden club or charity they may be able to provide insurance coverage for you.

Coverage usually is part of your general household insurance policy and may cover you for one-time events where the net proceeds from your ticket sales are for charitable purposes such as donations to Epilepsy Tasmania. However, you must make your own enquiries on this matter as Epilepsy Tasmania cannot provide formal advice to you and cannot provide any insurance coverage on your behalf.
When Can I Open My Garden?
Whenever you think your garden will look its best.

More people will visit on the weekend than a weekday, but if your garden is very small or suitable for school or community groups, then a weekday may be more suitable. Please ask Epilepsy Tasmania if you are unsure.

Do I Set An Entrance Fee?
Yes. Visitors to open garden events expect to pay an entrance fee, especially if it is to support a charity.

As the garden owner/event organiser, you decide the entry fee and donate the funds to Epilepsy Tasmania. We suggest a minimum entry price of $5 per adult, with children under 12 free of charge. An all-inclusive entry price for families with multiple children is also a good idea.

When Should I Register My Garden?
Now! You will need to start planning your event several months in advance. Early planning is also an excellent opportunity to ask other locals if they would like to join you and make it a neighbourhood event.

Will My Garden Be Promoted?
Epilepsy Tasmania will help promote your open garden on our website, on our social media platforms and in your local newspaper. If you have other suggestions, we will be pleased to help you with them.

You should also promote your open garden through your contacts, local clubs, community groups, noticeboards and even mailbox drops. On the morning of your event, put out direction signs to guide people to your garden and alert casual passers-by.

You’ve put in the hard work preparing your garden so use every opportunity to let people know about it.

Why Do I Need To Be Approved Before I Can Open My Garden?
Epilepsy Tasmania has been granted authority to fundraise for charitable purposes in Tasmania. This authority is essential for the work it undertakes and is a legal requirement under the Collections for Charities Act 2001. Anyone else is only entitled to hold fundraising events, including Open Gardens for Epilepsy, on behalf of Epilepsy Tasmania with its written approval.
As one of Tasmania’s most respected charities, Epilepsy Tasmania will not authorise events that do not align with its values or include:

- Inappropriate entertainment.
- Events relating to tobacco.
- Excessive consumption of alcohol or food.
- Illegal or excessively dangerous activities.

It is essential that Epilepsy Tasmania approves your event. Please complete the registration form attached to register for approval.

What Happens After I Register?

The approval process generally takes up to 10 working days. Once your registration is approved, you will receive a letter of permission to participate in Open Gardens for Epilepsy and a Fundraising Agreement.

Closer to the date of your open garden, we will provide you with an Information Pack, bunting, signage, donation tin, visitor sign-in sheets, and epilepsy information brochures for visitors who want to know where their donation is going.

Responsibilities Of An Epilepsy Tasmania Fundraiser

Your open garden event should be conducted in your name, and you must take full responsibility for managing it: Epilepsy Tasmania cannot take a coordination role.

You must make it clear that all of the money raised will be donated to Epilepsy Tasmania. You will be able to display our Donate to the Lavender logo to assure visitors that their donation will go to Epilepsy Tasmania.

The event cannot be used for the financial gain or profit of the event organiser.

The event must have the potential for financial success, so neither the organiser nor Epilepsy Tasmania is liable for unpaid expenses. Simple accounts must be kept to account for funds received and expenses and the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Branch, representing the Tasmanian Gaming Commission may ask to see these accounts.

The Collections for Charities Act 2001 requires that if you state the event is in support of a particular charity, all funds raised (less reasonable expenses) must be donated to that charity.
Use of the name Epilepsy Tasmania and Open Gardens for Epilepsy

When referring to or promoting your event, you must only refer to our organisation as Epilepsy Tasmania, and you must only refer to your event as being part of Open Gardens for Epilepsy.

Suggested wording when referring to the relationship between your Open Gardens for Epilepsy event and Epilepsy Tasmania is:

- Proudly supporting Epilepsy Tasmania.
- Funds raised will help Epilepsy Tasmania support Tasmanians affected by epilepsy.
- All proceeds will go to Epilepsy Tasmania.
- This volunteer-run event is raising funds for Epilepsy Tasmania.
- Donate to the lavender and all funds raised in Tasmania will stay in Tasmania.

Please talk to Epilepsy Tasmania if you are unsure how to use its names.
Fundraising Code of Conduct

Epilepsy Tasmania adheres to the following Fundraising Code of Conduct:

1. Donors have the right to be informed openly and honestly about the objectives of Epilepsy Tasmania.

2. Donors have the right to be assured their donations will be used for the purposes for which they were solicited and in accordance with the objectives of Epilepsy Tasmania.

3. Donors have the right to be assured that information about their donations are handled with respect and if asked, confidentiality.

4. Donors are free to ask questions and should be given truthful answers.

5. Donors have the right to ask for and receive receipts for donations over $2.00.

6. Donors have the right to receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition for their support.

7. Donors have the right to ask for the audited financial statements of Epilepsy Tasmania for the previous three financial years. This information should be supplied within 30 days of request.
Application Form: Open Gardens for Epilepsy

1. Your name: ________________________________________________

2. Your postal address:
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

3. Your garden address (if different):
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

4. Your phone: _______________________________________________

5. Your email: ________________________________________________

6. Are you a Friend of Epilepsy Tasmania?
☐ Yes
☐ No

7. Have you done any previous fundraising/volunteering for Epilepsy Tasmania?
☐ Yes
☐ No

8. Do you have epilepsy?
☐ Yes
☐ No

9. Do you know someone who has epilepsy?
☐ Yes
☐ No

10. Is your garden registered with Blooming Tasmania?
☐ Yes
☐ No

11. Have you ever opened your garden before?
☐ Yes
☐ No

12. Briefly describe your garden:
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
13. Tick your garden type/s:

☐ Diverse range of plants.
☐ Unusual plants.
☐ Plants chosen to suit local conditions.
☐ Water-wise garden.
☐ Native plants.
☐ Bird-attracting garden.
☐ Pleasing/creative plant combinations or design ideas.
☐ Relaxing garden atmosphere for an enjoyable outing.
☐ Disability-friendly with access for wheelchairs.
☐ Sensory garden that focusses on touch, sight, sound and scent.
☐ An unusual garden.
☐ Productive, food-producing garden.
☐ Sustainable, environmentally-friendly garden.

14. What is the approximate size of your garden? _____________________________

15. Is there reasonable access to and parking near your garden?
☐ Yes
☐ No

16. What is the proposed date and time of your open garden?

____________________________________________________________________________

17. If you intend to have entertainment please provide details:

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

18. Provide the name and phone number of a personal referee (not a family member or someone who lives in your household):

____________________________________________________________________________

19. How much do you intend to charge as an entry fee per person AND per family? ______________________________________________________________________

20. What percentage of profits will Epilepsy Tasmania receive?_________________

21. What date will the donations be sent to Epilepsy Tasmania?________________

Return this completed application:
by email to: admin@epilepsytasmania.org.au
by post to: PO Box 1834, Launceston, TAS 7250
Please attach some photos of your garden.