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**Hello Friend,**

Edition 23, 2019

Welcome to Brainwaves!

The last month has been very active with some good results that you can read about in this edition.

It is pleasing to see the enquires coming in from workplaces to discuss how they might become Epilepsy Smart.

Our Allied Health team are now regularly attending neurological clinics at the Launceston General and Royal Hobart Hospitals and after each clinic, return with new referrals.

Our Health and Wellbeing survey has closed and the information recorded for use. We have also compiled a comprehensive and successful report of the first 12 months of our current funding agreement with the State Government. The Department of Treasury & Finance has begun the community consultation calling for submissions for the next state budget and we are preparing our submission to extend Epilepsy Tasmania's funding post-June 2020. Current State Government funding has allowed us to significantly improve accessibility to services for all Tasmanians with epilepsy and we will soon share data and evidence of the impact and savings we are making across the Health systems both within the clinical and community contexts.

We look forward to engaging with Government to discuss this and how we are working together with them across a number of portfolios including Health, Health and Wellbeing, Education, Disability, Aging to achieve their commitments and priorities.

I have been asked to continue in the Epilepsy Australia Board Chair role and was pleased to recently attend the Epilepsy Society of Australia Annual Scientific conference and AGM.

Enjoy this edition of Brainwaves and as always, I welcome your feedback.



**Wendy Groot**, CEO Epilepsy Tasmania.

## **Portal for Health Professionals**

Following consultation with health professionals and at their request, we have created a health professional portal on our website with online referral forms and relevant information.

After a month of use, we are receiving great feedback on how quick and easy it now is to refer people to Epilepsy Tasmania and print resources.

**Health Professional Portal**

## **AGM**

You are invited (and encouraged) to attend Epilepsy Tasmania's Annual General Meeting on Friday 6th December at 5 pm at our Hobart office in the ABC

Building: 1 Liverpool Street. The AGM will be held in the boardroom.

For catering purposes, please RSVP to Bec on 6344 6881 or via [email](#).



## Christmas Gift Ideas

For gifts that keep on giving, have a browse in our website shop – we have new items in stock including fun accessories, KeepCups, insulated drink tumblers, lunch boxes, umbrellas, soft toys and stickers.

[Shop Now](#)

## Start Planning for Epilepsy Awareness Month

Next March might seem like a long time away, but after Christmas and New Years it will be on us like a flash.

Now is the time to start planning how you, your friends, workplaces, schools or community groups will help raise awareness of epilepsy during this month-long event.

To make it easier to register ideas and events we have created a new website page with an easy online form:

[Register Your Event Now](#)

## Reflections on WorkSafe Month

This October was a big month for Epilepsy Tasmania as for the first time we focussed our attention on making employers aware of their responsibilities to staff, customers and visitors who have epilepsy.

Throughout the whole month, we aired a video commercial in Tasmania on the WIN television network as well as before every movie shown at Hobart's State Cinema. We included some information in newsletters for the independent Federal MP, Mr Andrew Wilkie's electorate, Business Tasmania and the coming edition of WorkSafe Tasmania. The release of our new Tasmanian epilepsy research achieved extensive media coverage throughout the month.

We also had a stand at the WorkSafer Expo that was attended by health, safety and wellbeing professionals looking for solutions to make their workplaces safer, healthier and more productive.

Our additional exposure during October resulted in more volunteer interest too.



## Welcome Aboard – atWork Australia!

atWork Australia is a leading employment services provider, offering Disability Employment Services from over 300 locations across Australia.

On a daily basis, atWork Australia help people living with disability, illness, injury or mental health condition find meaningful and sustainable work. atWork Australia also

help employers access the full talent pool and employ a diverse workforce.

Epilepsy Tasmania is proud to be collaborating with atWork Australia to help Tasmanian employers and Tasmanians with epilepsy.

More information can be found on their website: <https://www.atworkaustralia.com.au/>

atWork Australia website



## **Volunteers wanted for 25 January celebration at Triabunna**

On the 25th January the Spring Bay Mill is hosting a Sunflower Celebration with a focus on sustainable gardening, fresh produce and gardening.

Epilepsy Tasmania has been invited to participate and we need a few volunteers to help us – please [email](#) or phone Sheralyn on 6344 6881 if you can spare a few (fun!) hours.

[Read about the Sunflower Celebration here](#)

## **A Bequest to Epilepsy Tasmania lasts forever**

**Your Will can help change people's lives.**

Deciding who to include in your Will is one of the most personal decisions you will ever make.

Leaving a Bequest to Epilepsy Tasmania is a most powerful and generous act. It is powerful because your bequest no matter how big or small will help transform the lives of people living with epilepsy for generations to come.

Bequest revenue goes into our Tomorrow Fund, to help ensure we can continue to provide life-changing programs, high-quality services and ongoing research for future generations. The Tomorrow Fund preserves bequeathed capital into perpetuity and releases the interest earned to ensure the ongoing provision of Tasmanian services.

[Read more about Bequests](#)

“Bloom where you are planted.”

— Mary Engelbreit



Epilepsy Tasmania is a not-for-profit community organisation improving the quality of life of Tasmanians with epilepsy, and those around them, through education, coordination and support.

It relies upon public donations and funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania.

## Epilepsy Tasmania

Mailbox: PO Box 1834, Launceston, TAS, 7250

Hobart Office: ABC Building, 1 Liverpool Street

Launceston Office: 462 Wellington Street

Telephone: 03 6344 6881

Website: [www.epilepsytasmania.org.au](http://www.epilepsytasmania.org.au)

Friends of Epilepsy Tasmania enhance its ability to speak for and advocate on behalf of Tasmanians affected by epilepsy.

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