

epilepsy
tasmania

TASMANIA'S VOICE FOR EPILEPSY

48TH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our vision is for all Tasmanians with epilepsy to have the same opportunities as the broader community.



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Epilepsy Tasmania acknowledges and pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land, and acknowledge Elders past and present.

ABN 18 186 427 891



CHAIR REPORT



Epilepsy Tasmania is a not-for-profit community organisation, and has been improving the quality of life and community participation of Tasmanians affected by epilepsy for 48 years now. It is the only epilepsy organisation based in Tasmania that delivers local services and support to Tasmanians.

Epilepsy Tasmania educates, trains and provides support in the form of liaison between families and the healthcare sector (GPs, hospitals, specialists etc.). In addition, there are programs and initiatives that can be implemented in schools or workplaces which assist people with epilepsy and those directly affected.

We are continuing our involvement with the 'Epilepsy Smart Australia' (ESA) program. This is a nationally consistent source of tailored information and support for people living with Epilepsy, a collaborative partnership between epilepsy service providers across Australia. We have been and will continue to contribute to the design and delivery of the ESA program in our local setting. The ESA program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and we are assisting the project team to seek ongoing support before the current funding comes to an end.

The Board completed the transfer of the organisation's legal structure to a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001. This places us on a more professional footing, although as a not-for-profit it doesn't fundamentally alter the way that we operate.

Our *Strategic Framework* was updated this year. The basic intent is unchanged, but through the process of review the team and the Board jointly finetuned our approach to service delivery. The *Strategic Framework* underpins the direction of the organisation and the actions undertaken demonstrate the team's continued agility with responses to varying needs throughout the year. A review of our *Risk Register* is due this coming next year.

The Board also commenced and will complete recruitment activity this year for new Directors. Last year saw one Director leave and just recently another retired. Their contributions will be missed, however it is good governance to regularly refresh and revitalise the Board, ensuring fresh perspectives at the same time as maintaining business continuity.

Epilepsy Tasmania continues to make an ongoing contribution to the State Government's approach to having a positive impact on Tasmania's social determinants of health.

I thank the Tasmanian Government and the Department of Health for their ongoing support.

I also remain thankful to the CEO and all the staff, volunteers and supporters who have enabled the work of Epilepsy Tasmania to continue throughout this year.

Kat Brient

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	Name
Chair	Kat Brient
Vice Chair:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Terry Long
Secretary:	John Frankcom
Directors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lila Landowski• Luke Ogden• Kathryn Randall

MEETING ATTENDANCE
v
REQUIRED ATTENDANCE
Kat 4 of 4
Terry 3 of 4
John 4 of 4
Lila 2 of 4
Luke 3 of 4
Kathryn 4 of 4

SERVICE PROVISION SNAPSHOT

Educations and Training Sessions

The last year has seen an increase in the provision of education and training sessions in the school, disability, children's services and workplace sectors with over **122 sessions** provided. This training consists of the Understanding and Management of Epilepsy, Individualised Epilepsy Management training and Individualised training for the Administration of Emergency Medications.

Referrals

We continue to engage with the community to develop awareness around our organisation and the services we can provide. This year we have had **252 new referrals** into our service.

EMP Development

We continue to promote the importance of individualised epilepsy management plans and have aided in the development and review of **142 epilepsy management plans** to ensure that they are a useful and beneficial document for both the person living with epilepsy and those providing support.

Support

We continue to provide support to individuals living with epilepsy and those affected by and caring for people with epilepsy with **over 2100 supports provided.**

Peer Support

Peer Support services for people living with epilepsy and their carers are growing fast with 135 in the last half of 2022 and 231 in the first half of 2023. **366 total.**

Social Media Group

Social media activity has increased in our Family Friends and Carers private Facebook group from 123 members to 141. There were 224 posts and 57 interactions.



**Over 2100
support
services
provided**

EPILEPSY SMART AUSTRALIA

We continue to grow the Epilepsy Smart Australia Program by delivering training across the Education, Disability, Workplace and Children's Services Sectors.

This year was our
biggest ever!

1395

attendances across
the state. Increase of
29%

Over 400
disability
support staff
trained

789
participants
at Smart
School Training

SOME TRAINING FEEDBACK...

"The trainer spoke clearly and knowledgeably. She was easy to listen to and gave practical advice for teachers."

"Lots of helpful information regarding signs to look for and strategies to help."

"It was very informative and covered all aspects of supporting a participant with epilepsy. The animated clips were a great way of seeing what seizures may present like."

"Practical advice of school based situations and what different seizures may look like."

"Demystified the disorder for me & am enabled to be a support to anyone having an episode."

"I appreciated the opportunity to speak after the course to clarify a couple of things and be provided with details to follow up for a family dealing with it."

"The whole presentation was interesting and informative, providing more understanding."

"It was very informative and increased my understanding of epilepsy, in particular the role of those supporting the individual experiencing a seizure.. I was quite amazed to realise how many different types of epilepsy and how individualised it is."

"Understanding of different types of epilepsy & strategies to support a student."