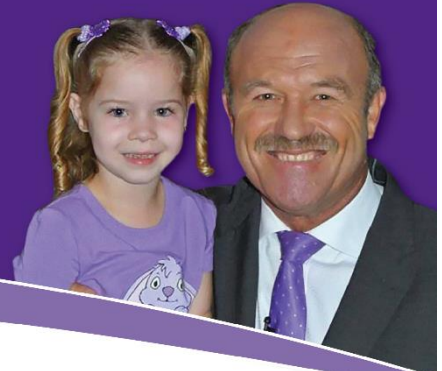


Epilepsy Talk about it

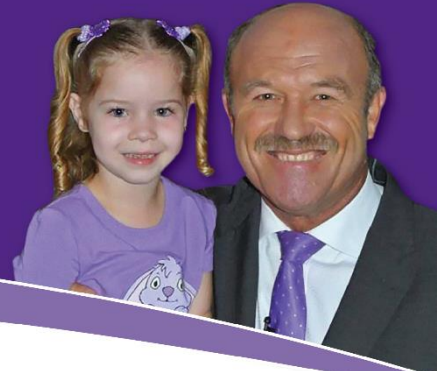


Epilepsy Queensland Key Messages

EPILEPSY

- Approximately 200,000 Queensland children and adults – 3-4% will acquire epilepsy during their lifetime
- In Queensland, this year there are 28,740 people living with active epilepsy.
- 10% of the population will have a seizure – one seizure is not necessary epilepsy. Epilepsy is the tendency to have recurring seizures.
- Epilepsy is one of the world's most common serious brain disorders – more people have epilepsy than muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease and motor neurone disease combined.
- Epilepsy can effect anyone at any age – a diagnosis is most common in children under 5 and over 55
- Approx 70% will have their seizures controlled with medication
- Many different types of epilepsy syndromes and different types of seizures (generalised (both sides of the brain) and focal)
- Epilepsy is not a barrier, appropriate management strategies and sympathetic support networks can enable most people with epilepsy to achieve almost anything

Epilepsy Talk about it



- Stigma, discrimination and misconceptions associated with epilepsy are sometimes worse than the condition itself
- Challenging misconceptions towards epilepsy can lead to a better quality of life for those affected by epilepsy

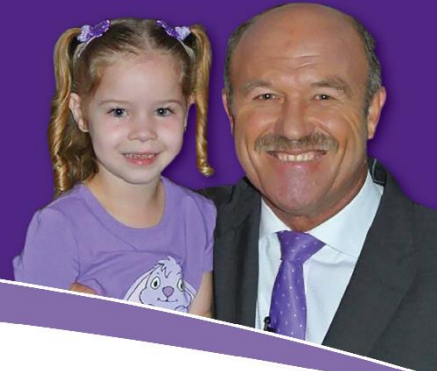
Cost of epilepsy in 2019-20 (Source: The economic burden of epilepsy in Australia, 2019-2020, Deloitte Access Economics)

- The total annual cost of epilepsy in 2019-20 was \$12.3 billion for the 142,740 people with active epilepsy in Australia. This includes costs to the health system, productivity, informal care, equipment, and transport.
- The estimated annual cost in Queensland is \$2.5 billion.
- The total lifetime cost for the 14,603 new cases of epilepsy in Australia in 2019-20 is \$22.2 billion. In Queensland this is \$4.4 billion.

Five key messages people living with epilepsy want people to know (Source: ILAE – International League Against Epilepsy)

1. Epilepsies are more common than most people realize. Epilepsy affects men and women of all ages, races, creeds and socio-economic backgrounds. Anyone can have

Epilepsy Talk about it

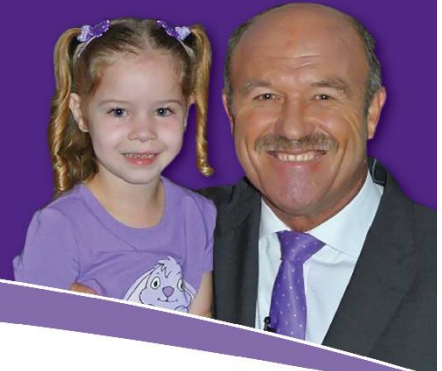


a seizure and develop epilepsy. Know the facts and learn Seizure First Aid.

<http://bit.ly/EQSeizureFirstAid>

2. Even though epilepsy is often invisible, there is an emotional social, mental and/or financial toll that affects each family differently. Learn the deeper story about living with epilepsy.
3. A person is more than their epilepsy. Some people with epilepsy have full lives and thrive. Others face challenges in all aspects of life. Don't stereotype epilepsy or the person with epilepsy.
4. Epilepsy is not a joke or a punch line or an excuse to bully. Seizures aren't funny. Take epilepsy seriously.
5. Research for cures in epilepsy is seriously underfunded. Take action to END EPILEPSY.

Epilepsy Talk about it



Epilepsy Queensland

- For 50 years EQI has been dedicated to its mission of bringing epilepsy out of the shadows and optimising life for people living with epilepsy
- EQI is the only Queensland based epilepsy service provider
- Provides information, counselling, support services and training to carers, education, health and disability workers
- Important to increase community awareness and understanding about epilepsy and seizure first aid - – when you understand what to do when a seizure occurs, fear and misunderstanding are diminished
- Our mascot is Little Poss – we have special children's program to help their understanding
- Patron – Wally Lewis
- Visit www.epilepsyqueensland.com.au
or call 07 3435 5000 or 1300 852 853 (Outside Brisbane)

MEDIA: If you would like further information or are interested in setting up an interview or photo opportunity, please contact Epilepsy Queensland's Communications Manager, Karen Furnivall on 07 3435 5000 / 0402 578 954 / kfurnivall@epilepsyqueensland.com.au.