

Inquiry into the Impact of Epilepsy in Australia: Recommendations Released

Recommendations from the first-ever Parliamentary Friends of Epilepsy *Informal Inquiry into the Impact of Epilepsy in Australia*, held on 30 October 2009, in Canberra, have been released. The Inquiry was held after a concerted lobbying effort by the Joint Epilepsy Council of Australia (JECA) to parliamentary representatives who have an interest in epilepsy.

JECA together with Epilepsy Australia, as the nation's peak consumer-led epilepsy body, and its state-based member organizations that provide services on-the-ground, are pleased to see that the Report recognizes that access to employment support services within government agencies is crucial in giving people with epilepsy opportunities to gain paid employment.

JECA is also pleased to see acknowledgement of the need for increased funding for initiatives such as awareness-raising campaigns, to reduce the ignorance and stigma associated with epilepsy, which can be a further major impediment to receiving a fair go in life, and for new research. In particular, it is critical to have current data available, via the National Health Survey, on Australian demographics of people with epilepsy, as well as the incidence, diagnosis and treatment, rather than relying on extrapolation of overseas data. This will help local service providers to tailor services to meet real needs in line with growing demand in certain age groups.

JECA notes that more than 360 submissions to the Inquiry were received - many by people with epilepsy, their families and carers, as well as service providers, medical practitioners, specialists and others working in the epilepsy sector - a very high number for an Inquiry of this type, indicating the depth of interest in, and concern for, the condition and those who are affected by it. JECA thanks all those who supported this Inquiry.

[Joint Epilepsy Council of Australia's address to the Inquiry](#)

[Joint Epilepsy Council of Australia's Submission to the Inquiry: A Fair Go for People Living with Epilepsy in Australia](#)

[Parliamentary Friends of Epilepsy Inquiry 2009 Report – Recommendations](#)

The Report will soon be available at

<http://www.jillhall.com>

<http://www.garyhumphries.com>