



HOW DID YOU GO PURPLE FOR EPILEPSY?

March is our major National fundraising and awareness campaign for the year culminating in Purple Day on 26 March. Unfortunately Coronavirus (COVID-19) had a significant impact on our ability to host events, raise funds and awareness throughout the month of March. Thank you to everyone in our community who adapted, going purple for epilepsy at home and online.

Thank you to pharmacies and our sponsors

Thank you to our Purple Day sponsors the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Queensland Branch) and Followmont Transport for your support. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia promote Purple Day to their members, asking them to support by selling our items. While our results have been severely impacted by Covid-19, these sponsors have been vital in assisting us in our merchandise campaign.

More than 100 pharmacies across the state stocked our purple awareness merchandise during challenging times. Transport of our precious cargo was kindly provided by Followmont Transport free of charge. Myrtle the turtle (named by our members through voting on our Facebook and Instagram pages) was a big hit selling out before Purple Day.

We are pleased to announce that the winner of our Purple Pharmacy of the year is Agnes Water Pharmacy. This wonderful local pharmacy not only sold our merchandise, but also held an Easter colouring-in competition and staff dressed in purple.

Purple Heroes

Thank you to our Purple heroes who were still able to raise awareness and funds for our epilepsy services. Some managed to get in their events before social distancing measures started to come into full force and others adapted to host virtual and online events.

We also still had some wonderful schools who went purple, shopping centre stalls, Everyday Hero pages, people who shared their stories, or hosted BBQs, morning teas and even a virtual online art auction. While we can't share all of their stories, here are just a few.



Townsville fountain



Epilepsy Queensland volunteer Anna Chesson



Agnes Water Pharmacy



Cameron Asher Art Show





Ed Barker and
Wilson State School



Sponsor Followmont
Transport



Ollie and Codie
Sheppard

Ed Barker - Toowoomba

Ed Barker, of Toowoomba, is a wonderful human and true purple hero. For Purple Day this year, Ed, who lives with epilepsy, organised a range of activities in support of our organisation and Queenslanders living with epilepsy.

Accompanied by his son, Bailey, Ed organised two class talks at Wilson State School which was met with lots of interest, questions and learning about epilepsy. This was complemented by class activities and worksheets.

With the support of Miss Orvain, Wilson State School went purple for epilepsy and had a free dress day, raising approximately \$700 for Epilepsy Queensland.

Big W Clifford Gardens, where Ed is employed, was also a huge support, selling purple merchandise and featuring Epilepsy Awareness Day on their community notice board.

Overall, Ed's efforts for Purple Day have resulted in over \$1,800 raised so Epilepsy Queensland can continue to deliver our specialist services to Queenslanders living with epilepsy.

Cameron Asher art show

A huge shout-out to Cameron Asher for his support of Epilepsy Queensland and people living with epilepsy. Cameron lives with epilepsy and after undergoing brain surgery, wanted to do something to assist others with epilepsy. Cameron decided he would like to host an art auction and epilepsy awareness event on Purple Day and set about painting amazing works of art.

When COVID-19 came along and impacted all of our lives, Cameron decided to move his art auction to a Facebook live event, raising an amazing \$670. Thank you to everyone who supported Cameron and Epilepsy Queensland by purchasing a piece of his artwork.

Our sincere thanks go out to Wandering Cooks, South Brisbane, who provided the venue and support for Cameron and Epilepsy Queensland in these incredibly challenging times for the hospitality industry.

Codie and Ollie Sheppard

Ollie Sheppard is four and a half years old and you would never know it from that great smile, but he has been through a lot, along with his devoted Mum, Codie.

Ollie was just 14 months old when he experienced his first seizure and was diagnosed with epilepsy soon after. Two years ago he had brain surgery to help with his seizures and currently he is on two forms of medication to provide daily relief. Now three months seizure-free, Ollie is enjoying his first year of kindergarten.

"It's the same school and staff as his daycare, which has made it really easy," says Codie. "It means they already have the

training in what to look out for and do if Ollie has a seizure so that is a huge relief. I trust them with him."

This Purple Day, Codie had a home barbecue and went "purple crazy." Ollie's kindergarten also showed their support by hosting a bake sale.

When asked what Purple Day means to them, Codie responds "raising awareness and educating."

"There is a big misunderstanding as to what epilepsy is," she says. "This is a day where we can educate people. A lot of people still go around thinking epilepsy just means that you have large fits, which is not true. It is important to educate people on the different forms and side effects of epilepsy."

Codie sums up what it is like being a Mum to a gorgeous young man living with epilepsy with this poem.

*A child is like a
butterfly in the wind.
Some can fly higher than others,
But each one flies the best it can.
Why compare one against the other?
Each one is different.
Each one is special.
Each one is beautiful.
I love you Ollie*

Thanks to their tireless efforts raising awareness of epilepsy through social media, we are pleased to announce Codie and Ollie as the winners of the Epilepsy Australia's purple iPhone 11 competition. Thank you to everyone who took a purple selfie, tagged @epilepsyqueensland and #GoPurpleForEpilepsy to go into the draw.

If you had to cancel your Purple Day event, get in touch with our fundraising team on 1300 852 853 if you would like to host your event later in the year.

Illuminations

Did you see Brisbane light up purple from a different angle and take the FREE City Hopper along the Brisbane River? For those not in Brisbane on Purple Day 2020 we had purple illuminations and fountains across the State including Ayr Fountain, Brisbane City Hall, Forgan Smith Building – UQ, King George Square, Kurilpa Bridge, Newstead Gasometer, Parliament House, QPAC, Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge (Brisbane), Munro Martin Parklands (Cairns), Graincorp Dalby West Silos, Ipswich Civic Centre, Mackay fountain, Graincorp Carrington Port silos (Newcastle) Oxley Street fountain (Townsville).

Thank you to Nine News Queensland who did a live weather cross with a view of the Story Bridge lit up purple, to our Patron Wally Lewis and the news team for sharing a special Purple Day message.