



MEDIA RELEASE

WHAT: Purple Day For Epilepsy

WHERE: Worldwide

WHEN: Thursday 26 March 2020

WHY: To raise awareness and spread information about one of the world's most common serious brain disorders – epilepsy. Go [HERE](#) for more information

Purple Day for Epilepsy is recognised worldwide on the **26th of March**. Each March local community Purple Heroes raise awareness and vital funds to assist Queenslanders living with epilepsy. Cairns has its own local hero, Adriana.

Adriana was first diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 14-years-old. Now 51 Adriana has been living seizure free for the past 27 years and without medication for the past 10.

“It is so important that I am living seizure free because I want to be a role model for my son.”

“We actually thought it was going to be my daughter who also had epilepsy. We had her booked in for an EEG as she was experiencing symptoms similar to that of auras,” says Adriana. “She was booked in for a Monday and the Saturday before I was in Kmart with my son shopping for his school camp when all of a sudden he started seizing.”

Soon after, her son was diagnosed with Generalised Epilepsy. At 18, Adriana says that his seizures are getting progressively more frequent and they are currently in the process of running through new tests with the team at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane.

“There is a future. Having an epilepsy diagnoses does not define you and that is the message I want to spread,” says Adriana.

Adriana is a strong advocate for Epilepsy Queensland and has even started a Facebook group for people living with epilepsy in Cairns. “It is all about the support and spreading awareness.”

This Purple Day, Adriana says they will spend it having a “purple painting party,” and is excited to continue to grow her Facebook page.

Purple Day was founded in 2008 by 9 year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada. Motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy, Cassidy started Purple Day to show people with

epilepsy that they are not alone. Epilepsy Queensland brought Cassidy's campaign to Australia in 2009 where it has grown momentum each year.

Anyone can be a part of Purple Day during March - the national epilepsy awareness month by:

- Supporting your local fundraiser <https://www.paintingparty.com.au/events/Painting-pARTY-Epilepsy-purple-Day--Mar-20-2020-Purple-painting-pARTY>
- Having fun with all things purple, the internationally recognised colour for epilepsy!
- Hosting purple events in school and at work such as dress up days and themed morning teas.
- [Purchasing Purple Day awareness merchandise from a participating Pharmacy or our website](#)
- Visiting and taking photos in front of the purple illumination at Munro Martin Parklands [thanks to Cairns Regional Council on 26 March.](#)

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To support Purple Day or find out more about epilepsy visit our website:
epilepsyqueensland.com.au.

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. Photos can also be made available.

[Epilepsy Queensland Inc.](#) was founded in 1969 and provides vital services and support to the 100,000 Queenslanders diagnosed with epilepsy. Through counselling services, guided workshops, and community advocacy Epilepsy Queensland is the only Queensland based epilepsy organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with epilepsy, their carers and families.