



## 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 **26<sup>th</sup> of March**. Each March local community Purple Heroes raise awareness and vital funds to assist Queenslanders living with epilepsy. Zillmere has its own local heroes, Shannon and Mia Ward.

Mia was just three-years-old when she had her first seizure. Her mum, Shannon called the ambulance and let her husband ride with her while she followed after with her younger son.

“I was not too concerned,” says Shannon. “I thought she might have just been sick but it didn’t cross my mind that it could be anything serious. But when I walked into the hospital I saw them resuscitating my daughter I immediately knew something was wrong.”

Mia stayed overnight in the hospital and had an EEG a week after. “We didn’t hear anything for about five weeks after so I thought, it mustn’t be anything bad otherwise they would have contacted us. When we finally saw the doctor he started talking about Mia’s epilepsy as if we already knew. It came as a complete shock to us.”

After this Mia was put on medication for two years before being ~~taken-weaned~~ off it. “We thought she was in the clear but not long after she went under another EEG and it showed that her seizure activity was constant so we immediately put her back on it.”

“We realized that a lot of things that we thought were normal, such as her clumsiness and occasional outbursts, ~~we~~re actually symptoms of her seizure activity. She used d to lose every running race because she would trip over and then as soon as we put her back on medication she came fourth!”

Shannon says that Mia handles her diagnosis well and is a strong advocate ~~for~~ raising awareness of epilepsy. “Coming up to Purple Day ~~Mia~~her and her friends created a PowerPoint presentation for her school principal, pitching why they should be able to go on stage at their school assembly and spread awareness about epilepsy. Unfortunately with everything going on that has been postponed but they are eager to get on stage when all is back to normal!”

“Epilepsy Queensland have been so great to us, when I last came in they sent me home with a book for Mia explaining what epilepsy is and how to live with it, she found it so interesting and it inspired her to raise awareness.”