2025 Annual Report

epilepsy ACT

Prepared by
Fiona Allardyce

Table Of Content

About Us

Epilepsy ACT is a leading community-based organisation dedicated to supporting people living with epilepsy, their families, and carers across the Australian Capital Territory. For over 40+ years, we have provided tailored programs, services, and resources that empower individuals to live safely, confidently, and independently while managing their condition.

Our team works closely with the community, healthcare professionals, and advocacy partners to ensure people with epilepsy have access to accurate information, practical support, and opportunities to participate fully in everyday life. From education and awareness initiatives to peer support networks and advocacy, we aim to reduce the impact of epilepsy and enhance quality of life.

At Epilepsy ACT, we are committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every voice is heard. Through collaboration, innovation, and responsive service delivery, we continue to meet the evolving needs of the epilepsy community while building stronger connections and awareness across the ACT.

Meet Our Team

At Epilepsy ACT, we are proud to have a small but passionate team who work tirelessly to support our community, deliver services, and raise awareness about epilepsy.

Fiona Allardyce – Chief Executive Officer
Fiona leads the organisation with compassion and dedication, ensuring smooth operations while engaging closely with clients and the team.

Nisha Jaishwal – Administration and Events Officer
Nisha keeps the organisation organised and efficient, coordinating training, events, and day-to-day operations with precision and care.

Chelsea Sorensen – Epilepsy Support Officer and Peer Support Coordinator
Chelsea provides empathetic, client-focused support, fostering connection and advocacy for people living with epilepsy.

Casual Trainers – Di Bandle and Hannah Brennan
Our training and education sessions are led by Di and Hannah, who bring expertise, passion, and care to every workshop they deliver. Di is a long-standing member of the team, known for her strength, dedication, and deep knowledge of epilepsy education. Hannah joined this year, bringing fresh energy, professionalism, and a compassionate approach. Together, they play a vital role in increasing awareness and understanding of epilepsy across schools, workplaces, and the wider community.

Together, our team is united by a shared goal – to make a positive difference in the lives of people affected by epilepsy through support, education, and advocacy.

Our Board
Epilepsy ACT is guided by a committed volunteer Board, providing governance, strategic oversight, and leadership to support the organisation's mission.

Chair: Peter Brown
Vice Chair: Vicki Page
Secretary: Fiona Allardyce
Treasurer: Sophie Irving (resigned Feb 2025)
Members: Jake Boyle, Louise Gray, Mark Parkinson

Our Board members are passionate about improving the lives of people living with epilepsy and providing strong strategic guidance. We thank them for their ongoing time, expertise, and leadership.

We sincerely thank each of our Board members for their time, leadership, and dedication to ensuring Epilepsy ACT remains a trusted and effective voice for people with epilepsy across the ACT and surrounding region.

Vision And Mission

Vision

For every person living with epilepsy in our region to feel safe, connected and able to reach their potential.

Mission

To provide accessible support, information, education and connections for people living with epilepsy in the ACT and surrounding region, their families, support network and the community.

Chair's Message

Over the past year, Epilepsy ACT has continued to demonstrate resilience, compassion, and innovation in supporting individuals and families affected by epilepsy across the ACT.

As Chair of the Board, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners who work tirelessly to improve the lives of those living with epilepsy.

This year, we have made significant strides in expanding our services, strengthening our advocacy efforts, and deepening our community engagement. From delivering peer support programs and educational workshops across schools and workplaces, to launching our new construction industry specific program. We also hosted numerous events to continue to raise awareness including our annual Christmas in July, the virtual Walk for Epilepsy, and the Make March Purple Campaign which saw a number of Canberra landmarks light up purple, the Epilepsy ACT team has been tireless in their efforts to support people living with epilepsy and the broader Canberra community.

The launch of Marvellous Miles, written by Sarah Watts, was especially meaningful this year. As a parent of a child with epilepsy this is an amazing resource for children with epilepsy, helping them understand their journey in a comforting and relatable way.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members for their commitment and insight, and to Fiona, our CEO, and staff for their unwavering dedication. I also want to acknowledge our supporters, donors, and partners–your generosity and belief in our work make everything we do possible.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to advocating for greater awareness, better services, and a more inclusive society for people living with epilepsy. Together, we will continue to drive meaningful change and ensure that no one in our community faces epilepsy alone.

Peter Brown
Chairperson
Epilepsy ACT Board

CEO Report

This year has been one of both consolidation and continued progress for Epilepsy ACT. While the Epilepsy Smart Australia Program (ESAP) funding has now concluded, we are proud to continue delivering this vital initiative in partnership with Epilepsy Queensland, Epilepsy Foundation, and Epilepsy Tasmania. Together, we remain committed to ensuring that epilepsy awareness and education continue to reach schools, workplaces, and communities across Australia.

Our training and education services have continued to grow, with Di and now Hannah joining our team of trainers. Together, they have delivered 31 sessions to schools, workplaces, and community groups – providing life-changing knowledge on epilepsy management and emergency medication.

This year also saw the launch of our new-look website, which provides easier access to information, resources, and support for individuals and families navigating epilepsy.

Behind the scenes, our support team has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of both new and returning clients. They developed over 34 individualised seizure and epilepsy management plans, while continuing to advocate and provide guidance to countless others in our community.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, volunteers, Board, and partners for their ongoing commitment and collaboration. Your passion and professionalism are what allow Epilepsy ACT to make a difference every single day.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our core services, growing our partnerships, and continuing to be a trusted source of information, advocacy, and compassion for people living with epilepsy in the ACT and beyond.

Fiona Allardyce
Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy ACT

One Year Review

The past year has been a wonderful period of growth, connection, and impact for Epilepsy ACT.

Our community spirit shone brightly through events and initiatives that brought people together and raised vital awareness for epilepsy. Our Christmas in July Party was a highlight, with festive fun including cookie decorating, crafts, Christmas bingo, and a special reading of Marvellous Miles by author Sarah Watts. Many of our young members also attended the Special Children's Christmas Party, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors who continue to make this experience possible each year.

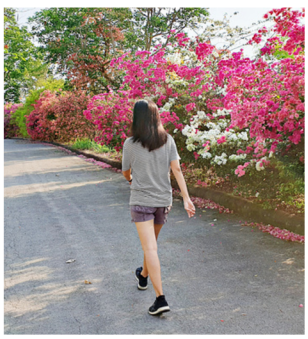
The Walk for Epilepsy was another standout success, with 30 participants joining together to raise over $13,000 in support of our local services. This event continues to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with families and supporters while helping to keep our programs running strong.

On 22 June 2025, the Adam Fry Memorial Cup raised over $7,000, a tremendous achievement made possible by the Tuggeranong United Football Club. We extend our sincere thanks for their support and commitment to this special event.

Our Peer Support Program has continued to thrive, with regular face-to-face sessions in Canberra and online groups connecting people across Australia. It's been inspiring to see the sense of understanding and encouragement that grows through these sessions.

Make March Purple was celebrated in true Epilepsy ACT style, with our team selling merchandise at Cooleman Court, Kipax Fair, and Westfield, and many local businesses – including chemists, pharmacies, The Tradies Club, and Canberra Southern Cross Club – helping to spread awareness and raise funds by selling our plush toys and merchandise. In particular, we are grateful to Capital Chemist for their ongoing donations each year, and to The Tradies for their generous support once again.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our wonderful supporters, volunteers, sponsors, and community members who continue to make these achievements possible. Together, we are helping to create a community where people living with epilepsy feel understood, supported, and empowered.



Financial Report

Epilepsy ACT is pleased to report a net surplus of $52,463 for the 2024-25 financial year. Total revenue for the year was $387,887, with total expenses of $335,424.
This positive result reflects strong financial management, increased community support, and the organisation's continued focus on delivering services efficiently and effectively.

Highlights and Contributing Factors

- Increased Government Support
- Epilepsy ACT received additional one-off grants from the ACT Government, including funding for IT upgrades and cost-of-living pressures. These grants provided vital assistance in maintaining and improving service delivery.
- Outstanding Community Donations
- We were humbled by the generosity of donors, including major gifts from the Victorian Shakespeare Foundation, The Tradies, and the Tall Foundation. Their contributions strengthened our ability to provide programs, advocacy, and direct support to people living with epilepsy.
- Responsible Spending and Cost Management
- Operating costs were carefully managed throughout the year, with savings achieved in areas such as IT and event expenditure. These efficiencies allowed Epilepsy ACT to direct more resources toward community engagement and support services.
- Growing Demand for Services
- The Peer Support program continued to grow, reflecting increased demand for connection and assistance across the ACT. While this led to a modest increase in staffing costs, it represents a meaningful investment in supporting the epilepsy community.

Summary

The 2024-25 financial year highlights Epilepsy ACT's continued stability and resilience. Through careful management, strong partnerships, and the generosity of our community, we remain well-positioned to provide vital services, education, and advocacy for people living with epilepsy and their families.
We extend our heartfelt thanks to our funding partners, donors, and members for their ongoing trust and support.

Contact Us

02 6287 4555

epilepsy@epilepsyact.org.au

www.epilepsyact.org.au

Thank you

Every act of kindness, every dollar donated, and every hour volunteered strengthens our mission.
Thank you to our wonderful community for standing with Epilepsy ACT and helping us make a real difference in the lives of people living with epilepsy.
Together, we continue to create connection, understanding, and positive change.