

## Team Deloitte making an impact!

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The idea came one Friday afternoon late in April in a conversation between Aneliese Maione, Shama Ragavan and Alvin Chan when discussing ways in which we could do some sort of fundraising activity for Epilepsy Action Australia. This was due to the fact that both Aneliese and Shama knew people who suffer from the condition. We talked about the lack of awareness about epilepsy and its impact on individuals and families. We decided that we wanted to use an event to raise awareness and also raise donations for Epilepsy Action Australia, which is one of the main organisations in Australia that helps those with epilepsy and helps to raise awareness across the country.

Assurance and Advisory ("A&A") is structured into "counseling trees", where each partner heads a team of people who come together for a common purpose such as fundraising. To spice things up we made the event a counseling tree charity challenge in order to get everyone involved as well as adding a little bit of competitiveness to encourage people to raise money for this worthy cause. We took the idea to A&A partner, Margaret Dreyer, who talked us through the administrative procedures involved and also got the Deloitte Foundation ("the Foundation") to match the first \$2,000 raised.

The idea was presented to the A&A group at our monthly "town hall" meeting the following Tuesday. We let the counseling trees use their creativeness to come up with their own approach to raising money throughout May. While presenting the approach to the A&A group we set a target of raising around \$2,000 so that combined with the Foundation's contribution we would raise at least \$4,000.

The response we got from the A&A group was phenomenal. Everyone was really enthusiastic and really got behind the idea of supporting Epilepsy Action Australia. We had many activities throughout the month, including:

- hiring of a coffee machine and selling coffee & muffins in the morning on level 6;
- a silent auction held at the Sydney office with items including a lunch with Giam and an overnight golf trip;
- a garage sale;
- selling of entertainment books;
- a number of different raffles with great prizes, such as tickets to Cirque du Soleil, a trip to Magenta Shores and an iPod; and
- selling of personalised mugs.

In the end the Deloitte A&A team raised far more than we predicted with a staggering total of \$15,789.30, and with the \$2,000 from The Deloitte Foundation, this bumped up the total to a very impressive **\$17,789.30**. Considering this fundraising effort lasted for just a month we were overwhelmed by the final amount and everyone's generosity.

Shortly afterwards we invited Vic Zacharias, Funding Development Manager from Epilepsy Action Australia, to our June monthly 'Town Hall' meeting. We presented him with a cheque and he thanked everyone.

Vic explained that the money will help fund a family camp where kids who suffer from epilepsy from all over Australia are brought together to enjoy activities and make friends with others who suffer from the same condition. For many of those who attend the camp, it will probably be the first time they have met someone else who suffers from epilepsy and it really helps them knowing that they are not alone.

Vic also explained that the camp focuses on developing their self confidence with many going on to build life-long friendships. This brought a smile to everyone's faces and really brought home the value of our efforts.

Special thanks to Margaret Dreyer for her guidance in allowing us to make the event happen and also to Melanie Hartley who helped with a lot of the administrative work, including collecting and counting all the donations we received.

Well done everyone!