Let’s get together

We’re joining forces with others in the community to help provide a national solution for Australians with epilepsy.

Team work
On 4 October in Perth, state Premier Alan Carpenter launched Epilepsy Action’s new services in Western Australia and the historic collaboration with Epilepsy Association of Western Australia (EAWA). Epilepsy Action is also forging more partnerships to improve Australia’s epilepsy services.

Recent initiatives aim to target issues such as unemployment, depression and family breakdown, which people with epilepsy revealed during our 2007 consumer consultations. Collaborations nationally between healthcare professionals, other service organisations and Epilepsy Action are vital to provide more Australians with continuous support from diagnosis onwards.

In August, meetings began with The George Institute. This international organisation focuses on improving global health through applying high quality research to health policy and practice. Opportunities being explored include a major research project to provide an intricate picture of life with the condition, which could ultimately help with giving people more appropriate support.

A relationship was formed with Brainwave Australia in October, a dynamic Victorian-based organisation supporting children with brain disorders. Together, we intend to build stronger community-based services for children and families living with neurological conditions, particularly epilepsy and other seizure disorders.

We will continue to seek further partnerships and alliances into 2008, as we implement a national services strategy to meet need across Australia.

Your say
Adventure and friendship awaited 12-year-old Hannah Coleman on Epilepsy Action’s recent youth camp in country NSW. On the giant swing, “I faced my fears,” says Hannah, but “the best part was making new friends. My family supports me but they don’t really know what it’s like to have epilepsy. It was really nice to be around people my own age who were facing the same issues... to just feel ‘normal.”

In brief...
Tuberous sclerosis seminar
On 3-4 November in Sydney, the Australasian Tuberous Sclerosis Society Inc. (ATSS) unveiled new research and life impacts of the genetic disorder experienced by one in 6,000 Australians – 80% of whom have epilepsy caused by tuber-like growths on the brain. If you’re affected, call 1300 73 34 35 for information and support or visit www.atss.org.au, and look out for our upcoming feature story by ATSS President, Sue Pinkerton.

Group programs
Held in collaboration with People Outdoors, Epilepsy Action’s new-look camps to promote peer-support and adventure will continue in South Australia in February, NSW in April and May and in Victoria, north Queensland and Western Australia in June. Meanwhile discover practical strategies for enhancing memory at Epilepsy Action’s series of memory workshops, beginning in April. Ask us for more details.

2008 calendar
Keep track in the New Year and be uplifted by inspiring photos from our new, action-themed calendar. A user-friendly A4 size and only $10 each including GST, they’re a great buy either for you, or as Christmas gifts for friends and family. Proceeds from each sale go towards Epilepsy Action services. Postage is free. To order, call 1300 88 79 88.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
Contact Epilepsy Action on 1300 37 45 37 for more information on any of the above or email us at epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au