

APPENDIX B – Internationally recognised national bodies

Joint Epilepsy Council of Australia

The Joint Epilepsy Council of Australia (JECA) is the Australian Chapter of the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and consists of community-based organizations, which provide epilepsy services across Australia. The council works to address such social problems as education, employment, insurance, driving licence restrictions and public awareness.

In Australia, JECA provides a framework to ensure that various community epilepsy organizations have representation nationally, and internationally, and provides a mechanism for procuring resources for the movement and the exchange of ideas.

JECA members are as follows:

- Epilepsy Association (ACT) Inc
- Epilepsy Association of South Australia and Northern Territory
- Epilepsy Association of Tasmania
- Epilepsy Queensland
- Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria
- Epilepsy Association of Western Australia

Epilepsy Action (formerly Epilepsy Association of NSW) having withdrawn in 2008, has an open invitation to rejoin.

As individual organizations, each community group works to achieve the best possible outcomes for all Australians living with epilepsy and supports the Australian community by providing resources to ensure that informed decisions are made in relation to epilepsy.

As a network, JECA works towards achieving greater community understanding of epilepsy, by refocusing public attitudes and community attention to the realities of living with epilepsy in the Australian community.

JECA provides opportunities for its members to better tailor their service delivery around a broad range of social and health issues, including research and providing professional services in counselling, advocacy and social work for people living with epilepsy.

Epilepsy Society of Australia

The Epilepsy Society of Australia is a professional organization for clinicians, scientists and technologists involved in the diagnosis, treatment and research of epilepsy in Australia. The purposes of the Society are to:

- Improve the medical care of people affected by epilepsy in Australia
- Foster a greater scientific understanding of all aspects of epilepsy through support of research
- Promote the exchange of medical and scientific information related to epilepsy

The Society grew out of the Austin Hospital epilepsy workshops which began in 1983, and has formed the Australian chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) since 1989. The ESA promotes and advocates improved medical management of epilepsy in Australia, enlisting financial support from various sources to fund scientific work within the field of epilepsy.