

Celebrating Purple Day Success

Welcome to CEO Tracy Tierney

Farewell to Ross Smith

Message from Pharmac

Creative Purple Day Fundraising

SeizureSmart Training Available

Our dedicated educators continue to provide support
and education throughout New Zealand.



PURPLE DAY SUCCESS

Purple Day is gaining traction every year and we would like to thank each and everyone of you who supported it in some way. This year we had more schools, business and people in the community going purple for the day. Purple Day is vital to our organisation's success. Not only does it bring in much needed funds, the day raises epilepsy awareness worldwide.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those living with epilepsy and their whānau!

Purple Day



CEO APPOINTMENT

I am very excited to be joining the team at Epilepsy New Zealand including the wider whānau who work alongside, support and interact with the organisation. I have close whānau who live with Epilepsy which strongly motivates me to want to do everything I can to make a difference. I really look forward to connecting with everyone when I officially come onboard at the end of April.

Tracy Tierney

ENZ Website



CEO FAREWELL

Last month we farewelled our CEO, Ross Smith who started in August 2019.

Thanks for all you have done for ENZ, Ross – we wish you good

health and happiness for the next chapter.

[Register for our Newsletter](#)



MESSAGE FROM PHARMAC

In July 2024, Pharmac asked for feedback on funding zonisamide, a medicine used in the treatment of epilepsy, through Pharmac's 2023/24 Annual Invitation to Tender.

More work needs to be done before a decision on the tender for this treatment.

This means that the timeframe for making zonisamide available will be delayed. It is unlikely to be in 2025.

Pharmac's website will be updated as more information is available.

[Pharmac Website](#)



CREATIVE PURPLE DAY FUNDRAISING

Highlights from 2025 Purple Day Fundraising included bake sales, an art auction, dancing and a livestream concert!

Mannaki Ability Trust artist's contributed to this year art auction; "We have a number of clients here with Epilepsy and most of our clients have witnessed a seizure of two at some stage, so their empathy is high for those who live with Epilepsy. They enjoyed being able to be creative, exploring how they can reflect Epilepsy, seizures, emotions and feelings and put them on a canvas."



Thank you to our supporters of the art auction one happy bidder said. "We support the society because several family members have Epilepsy. Any organisation promoting new drug development and offering support to families deserves all the support we can give. My daughter attends coffee mornings, has made friends with similar issues, and has received substantial support. Keep it up."



[Renee Maurice](#), our Epilepsy Educator in Waitematā and the 2013 winner of New Zealand's Got Talent, shared her exceptional vocal talents via livestream on ENZ Facebook in honour of Purple Day.



What an amazing out pouring of talent to celebrate this special day. Purple Day truly is a special day to connect with our community and educators, and raise epilepsy awareness.

Would you like to host a fundraiser?

We will support you and your creative fundraising ideas! If you would like to create your own fundraiser please email; marketing@epilepsy.org.nz

[Click to like our Facebook page.](#)





THERE IS STILL TIME TO GIVE TOWARDS PURPLE DAY

[Donate Here](#)



PURPLE DAY FUNDRAISING - THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

A huge thank you to our volunteers and support crew - we could not do it without you. Here we have generous volunteers outside Kmart Dunedin collecting funds for Purple Day. Staff at the store wore purple to raise awareness of Epilepsy.

In Hamilton, Tracy organized a memorial fundraiser for Purple Day through a staff event at the Ministry of Justice. Donations were collected across three locations, with staff showing their support by wearing purple ribbons. Additional funds were raised through contributions from friends and family - a truly meaningful way to honor a lasting legacy.

Thank you to all those involved this year. All donations received go

towards providing vital educator support in the community.

[Contact our Educators Here](#)



EDUCATORS IN THE COMMUNITY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Epilepsy New Zealand very much for the ongoing support we receive.

In our class (Te Rangimarie at Stratford High School) there are several students who have seizures and it is vital that our teacher aides and teachers have the knowledge of seizures and how to assist when a student has a seizure.

Every year we invite a representative from Epilepsy New Zealand to speak to our staff and this is always done in a professional and informative way.

[Read More Here: BLOG](#)



SEIZURE SMART DISABILITY

Do you work in the disability sector and want to learn more about epilepsy?

Epilepsy NZ's **SeizureSmart Disability** e-learning module is now available! This training equips you with the knowledge and skills needed to provide effective support to individuals living with epilepsy in your workplace.

By completing this module, you'll gain a deeper understanding of epilepsy and its impact, helping you create safer, more inclusive environments where individuals feel supported and understood.

Click here to access [SeizureSmart Disability](#).

[SeizureSmart Schools • Epilepsy New Zealand](#)

[SeizureSmart Workplaces • Epilepsy New Zealand](#)



GPCME

Epilepsy New Zealand will be attending GPCME on **05-08 June 2025 GP Stand 19**, Rotorua Energy Events Centre. GPCME is an opportunity to discuss referral

pathways and clinical updates with health professionals. The team at ENZ take pride in highlighting our valuable services at this annual event.

[More info on GPCME](#)



Fieldays^{NZ}

WE'D LOVE TO CHAT WITH YOU AT FIELDAYS

Find us at stand HW26 in the 2025 Hauora Taiwhenua Health & Wellbeing Hub. Do you or someone you know or work with live with epilepsy? Drop by for a chat at Fieldays. At our stand you will find helpful information and we can connect you with one of our nationwide educators.

[Fieldays Ticket Available in May](#)

Donate towards our educators supporting your community.



\$10

\$100

\$1000

MAKE AN IMPACT WITH A DONATION

Thank you for supporting ENZ, every donation goes toward supporting our charitable purpose.

DONATE HERE

 **FREEPHONE**
0800 37 45 37



If you require treatment advice please contact your health provider or ring 111 in an emergency

For general health advice, please ring 0800 611 116 - anytime

If you are experiencing mental distress, please call or text 1737 - anytime

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www.epilepsy.org.nz

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