



ausEE Inc. *President's Report* 2009/2010

I feel privileged that I have been able to found the first Australian support network for eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders, however, I should also mention that I wish these disorders didn't even exist in the first place. It has been a pleasure to create a hub for those, like me, who are travelling this road. I understand only too well how life-altering these disorders can be and how isolated and frustrated I felt when my daughter, Bella, was diagnosed 5 years ago with eosinophilic oesophagitis (EE). When I first launched the ausEE website in November 2009, I don't think I realized the enormity of what I had set out to do. I can't even begin to explain the learning curve and red tape that has been waded through to achieve what we have in our first year.

After Mercedes Hinchcliff's son Henry was diagnosed with EE, she became a member of ausEE and very soon after joined the ausEE team; little did I know what a difference one extra person could make. We have formed a strong friendship and she works tirelessly for the cause and is an avid fundraiser. Together we have sent countless emails and letters seeking awareness, support, funding, we are constantly sharing ideas and generally taking every possible avenue we can think of to spread the word about eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders – not an easy feat when most people have never heard of them!

Here are some highlights of our achievements to date:

- Endorsed by the ATO as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)
- Registered as a charity in both QLD and NSW and an Incorporated association in QLD
- 90 members of our website www.ausee.org which includes an active support forum
- Creating, printing and distributing Australia's first medical brochures on eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders
- Acquired a Medical Advisory Board of six medical professionals in the field from around Australia
- Launch of our fundraising appeal the Top 8 Challenge www.top8challenge.com
- Donating of new hand knitted ausEE kid dolls which are given to kids undergoing endoscopies or surgery to insert feeding tubes – currently distributed through Children's Westmead and Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane
- Writing and illustration of a children's picture book called 'Arabella's Oesophagus'
- Medical research planned in partnership with the Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Exhibited at Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy 2010 Scientific Meeting

We still have a long road ahead and have many goals and projects that we are determined to achieve. On behalf of the ausEE Inc. committee and our members - together, we are not alone...and together we will make a difference!

Sarah Gray
President & Founder, ausEE Inc.

