



ausEE Inc. *President's Report* 2010/2011

I'm delighted to report on ausEE's achievements over the past year. Considering these economic times, the programs and services our charity has been able to deliver, whilst being run solely by volunteers and relying on donations and sponsorships alone, is a great accomplishment.

This year has also been a big personal journey, as my daughter, Bella, now 8 years old had surgery to insert a gastrostomy feeding tube. This was our largest treatment decision since she was diagnosed with EoE at 18 months old. It gave us a lot of comfort during this time to know of other families faced with similar challenges and I honestly don't know how we coped before meeting the wonderful group of members we are fortunate to have.

Mercedez and I are proud to share with you some of our highlights from our second year – we have:

- launched our first Australian awareness week - National EOS Week 8-14 August 2011
- published and distributed over 10,000 medical brochures on EGIDs in Australia
- donated over 100 knitted dolls to children's hospitals to be given to children just diagnosed or undergoing repeat endoscopies for an EGID
- published our children's book - *Meet Arabella ; one girl's journey with eosinophilic oesophagitis*
- maintained and operated our website (www.ausee.org) which now has over 200 members and rapidly growing
- distributed monthly newsletters to a database of over 250 contacts and actively communicate through social media Facebook and Twitter
- hosted regular support group meetings in QLD and NSW with more states being established
- provided support network forums through our website and Facebook group
- co-funded a research study in Queensland and provided resources for a medical research trial being conducted at Children's Westmead
- exhibited at two national medical conferences - Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy 2011 Scientific Meeting and Australian Gastroenterology Week 2011
- operated community awareness stalls at shopping centres, markets and a public library
- submitted countless grant applications and were awarded two grants to assist with publication and distribution costs of *Meet Arabella*
- hosted fundraising events including trivia nights, movie night and A Day in the Park
- introduced new options for our members and supporters to get involved including free dress days, fundraising programs and online shopping
- been featured in several newspaper and magazine media articles
- ongoing support from our esteemed Medical Advisory Board of 7 specialists in the field

Thank you to all our members and supporters for their contributions throughout the year, we couldn't do it without you! We pledge to you our commitment to continue to grow and achieve our mission, as your Australian charity dedicated to improving lives affected by eosinophilic disorders.

Sarah Gray
ausEE Inc. President & Founder

Mercedez Hinchcliff
ausEE Inc. Vice-President

