



a charity dedicated to improving lives affected by eosinophilic disorders

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- MEDIA RELEASE -

Feeding tubes play a vital role, more awareness is crucial

Australian charity ausEE Inc. is marking Feeding Tube Awareness Week (FTAW), 7-13 February 2021 with a focus on how vital tube feeding is to get nutrition to those who need it.

Tube feeding can help to provide all the nourishment and essential nutrients a person needs to grow and develop when they are unable to eat or unable to eat enough. There are many reasons why babies, children or adults may require a feeding tube including medical conditions or illnesses that prevent them from being able to eat, enough if anything, to absorb nutrients. Tube feeding, also called enteral nutrition, is a way formula or food in liquid form can get into the body when they cannot eat or drink enough to maintain nutrition, are unable to eat because they cannot chew or swallow properly or safely or there is the need for extra nutrition for growth.

Feeding tubes can be temporary or permanent. The two most common types are a nasogastric tube (NG), which is a tube that is put up the nose and down into the stomach and is mostly used for short term tube feeding and a gastrostomy, often called a PEG, (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy) which is placed in the stomach during a procedure and is used for medium-long term tube feeding.

ausEE Inc. is Australia's peak national support and patient advocacy organisation representing Australians living with an eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorder, just one condition that may require a patient to have a feeding tube to meet their nutritional needs. Sarah Gray, ausEE president says, 'The aim of Feeding Tube Awareness Week is to increase awareness and understanding to the greater community about tube feeding, raise some of the challenges faced and highlight the day-to-day impact on individuals, carers and families.'

'This week is about bringing everyone together who has a feeding tube, whatever the reason may be.'

The www.feedingtubeaware.com.au website provides a platform for links to information, practical resources and support networks for Australians living with feeding tubes and fosters partnerships for resource sharing with other disability and advocacy organisations.

Share your story and views on social media #FTAW2021

-ENDS-

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