

Understanding all facets of epilepsy

Insights and opportunities



Patient Stories

Hear from real people living with drug-resistant epilepsy as they share their experiences.



Hayley

▶ Watch Video



Gary

▶ Watch Video



Harry

▶ Watch Video



Joshua

▶ Watch Video



Katya

▶ Watch Video



Olivia

▶ Watch Video

A message from Donna Tymensen

Country Director, LivaNova Australia and New Zealand



LivaNova is committed to offering people living with epilepsy the hope of a life not dictated by seizures.

About 3 in 100 Australians will develop this condition in their lifetime,¹ but for one third of these people, medication is not likely to control seizures.² This is why LivaNova is developing innovative medical technology to provide treatment alternatives for people that may not be responsive to standard treatment. We are proud to have treated more than 125,000 patients with drug-resistant epilepsy around the world.

We also know that in addition to treatment options, emotional and psychological support is so important. A supportive network of friends, family, and employers can make all the difference, however, unfortunately, the condition is often misunderstood as “just seizures”.

There is still work to do to educate people on its complex nature and impact on people living with the condition, so we surveyed Australians to find out more about these knowledge gaps and opportunities locally.*

*The study surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,011 Australians aged 18 years and older in between 2nd – 6th March 2023. The survey was conducted using an online survey administered to members of the YouGov Plc Australian panel of 71,000+ individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. Following the completion of the survey, the data was weighted by age, gender and region to reflect the latest ABS population estimates.

Did You Know?

Epilepsy is a disease of the brain characterised by the tendency to have recurrent seizures, which are temporary disruptions of the electrical activity in the brain. There are about 151,000 people living with epilepsy in Australia and it was most prevalent in the 65+ age group.³

[Learn more](#)



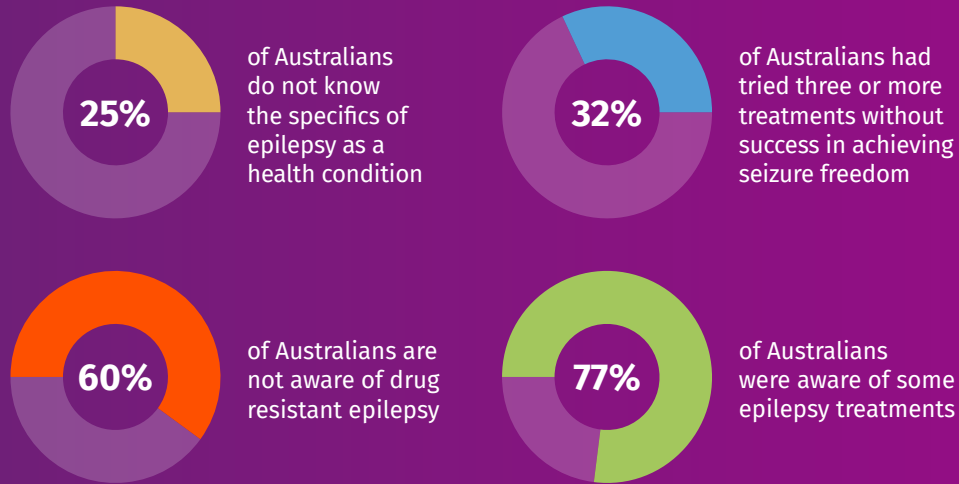
151,000

people living
with epilepsy
in Australia³

65+

most prevalent
age group.³

What we found



42% of Australians are aware of at least one treatment other than anti-seizure medication, including:

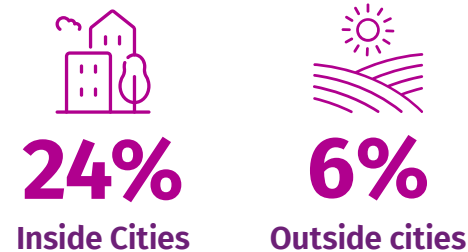
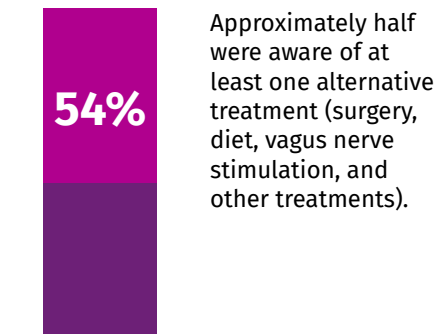


*Percents do not add up due to multiple responses

What we know about people affected by epilepsy

Among Australians diagnosed with epilepsy and those who have an immediate family member with epilepsy

Four in ten are unaware of drug-resistant epilepsy



People living outside major cities were more likely to report trying more than 5 anti-seizure treatments than those living inside major cities*

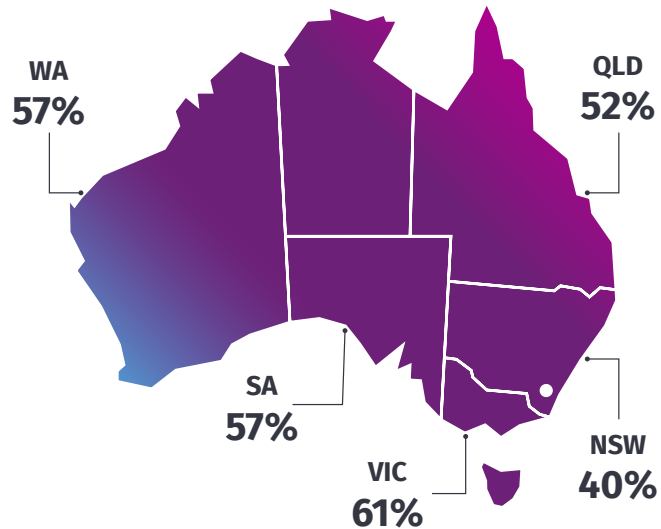
*In this instance, data from respondents outside major cities may not be considered statistically reliable due to low counts.

Did You Know?

Although there is a broad overarching term to describe epilepsy, there are many types of epilepsy, seizures can look very different among individuals, and the condition affects every person with epilepsy differently. Drug-resistant epilepsy refers to when a person has failed to become (and stay) seizure free with adequate trials of two antiseizure medications.⁴

Epilepsy and location

Percentage of people not aware of drug resistant epilepsy by state:

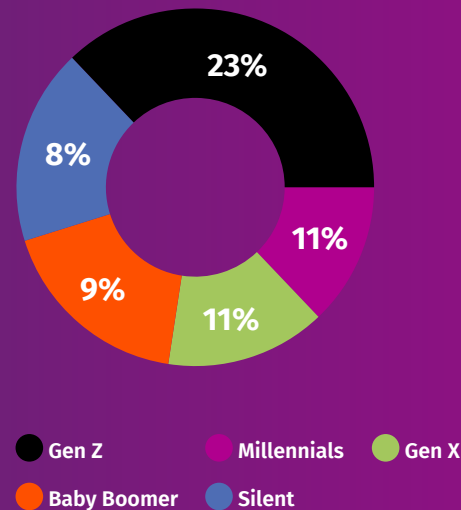


Those living outside major cities, when compared to those living in major cities, were more likely to believe that epilepsy has a significant impact on quality of life.



Epilepsy, age, and gender

Gen Z were more likely to say that they don't know or are unsure where to obtain comprehensive epilepsy support



Men were more likely than women to say they were aware of drug resistant epilepsy as a condition



Women were more likely than men to say that the most comprehensive epilepsy support can be obtained from patient advocacy/support groups



Men were more likely than women to say that the most comprehensive epilepsy support can be obtained from a general practitioner



Epilepsy and income



People with an income less than \$70,000 were more likely to say that they tried more than 5 anti-seizure treatments and not achieved seizure freedom than people with an income \$70,000 or greater

Opportunities for improvement

The study results reinforce the importance of consistent awareness raising and education activities to address gaps in Australians' understanding of epilepsy, including its complex nature and impact on people living with the condition.

Better awareness of drug-resistant epilepsy and the additional challenges it causes to patients is needed among people without, and with, epilepsy. Having all Australians aware of the many forms of epilepsy can help encourage earlier diagnosis and make a positive impact on quality of life for people experiencing seizures.

Since all people affected by epilepsy have a unique experience, patients need tailored solutions and support services that cater for the individual. This is especially true for groups that may be at a higher risk of poor outcomes, including people outside major cities and in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage, younger generations, and patients with drug-resistant epilepsy.

-  Ongoing patient education
-  Tailored support for patients
-  Early access to complex epilepsy centres
-  Targeted support for regional and remote areas
-  Awareness campaigns targeted at the general consumer
-  Enhanced communication between epileptologists and neurologists

Additional information

Resources for consumers

LivaNova
Epilepsy

Website



Learn from the experiences of others:



Is VNS Therapy™ right for you?



Resources for healthcare professionals

LivaNova
Epilepsy

Website



The Epilepsy Society of Australia

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4. Epilepsy Foundation. (2022). Drug resistant epilepsy. Retrieved from: <https://www.epilepsy.com/treatment/medicines/drug-resistant-epilepsy>