



Australian Paediatric Society

The voice of rural child health
www.auspaediatrics.com.au
ABN 93 622 296 075

PO Box 1139
GEELONG VIC 3220
Ph 03 52227721
Fax 03 52227517
Email admin@drjoss.com.au

Minister Greg Hunt
Minister for Health
By email

11.11.19

Dear Minister Hunt,

Re Australia wins international Diabetes Innovation Award

I was extremely proud and honoured to represent Australia at the annual meeting of the International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) to collect the award as judged by international peers as being the most significant paediatric diabetes innovation in the past year. I am particularly proud that the award-winning innovation was conceived and created in regional Australia.

That innovation is the T1D e-learning courses for children with diabetes at school.

My idea of applying a proven learning platform to create diabetes courses for school personnel arose because my general paediatrician work has evolved in later years to specialise in both allergy (I have been a strong collaborator and contributor to the National Allergy Strategy representing regional Australia) and diabetes. General paediatricians (compared with other subspecialists) have frequent contact and develop close relationships with school personnel through case meetings and school visits for children with learning, behaviour and medical problems. I noted the success, acceptance and familiarity of the ASCIA anaphylaxis training modules for school personnel. However, anaphylaxis management is simple compared to managing the complex needs of children with Type 1 Diabetes at school, so the challenge was significant.

Nonetheless I accepted that challenge to create the T1De-learning courses for school personnel using Moodle as the proven learning platform. Moodle is an Australian invention and was used by ASCIA in the successful anaphylaxis modules as well as being used corporate giants Microsoft, many universities and banks. The situation was urgent so many clinicians determined that we could not wait any longer for an adjunctive training tool to provide for safe and legal insulin administration in the school environment by non-medically trained (and naturally anxious) school personnel.

The project relied upon the pro bono legal advice from Arnold Bloch Leibler to a family challenging the non-compliant Victorian State Government, along with over 500 parent depositions, input from teachers, local and international health care professionals and adolescents living with Type 1 Diabetes. All had experienced the challenges and traumas of life at school and contributed to the development and shaping of the e-learning modules into a format with appropriate language and content. That wide collaborative input, pilot trials in schools and use of an expert web designer has led to the T1D e-learning courses becoming hugely successful and popular across Australia.

The foundations and framework of the courses are built unashamedly on ISPAD Clinical Practice Consensus Guidelines and 2018 ISPAD Position Statement on Diabetes in School which are highly appropriate for the Australian education system.

The e-learning modules are free. Over 10,000 courses have been completed by over 5000 registrants. The modules comprise a complete suite of ISPAD recommended levels including

- Level 1 - simple generic diabetes information that can be applied to all school personnel
- Level 2 - information that augments personalised and individualised training by the treating medical team or parent to school personnel who have direct responsibility for that student
- Level 3 - to augment personalised training of the non-medical school staff member on administration of a legislated dangerous drug (insulin).

The T1D e-learning modules are endorsed by ISPAD and the Australian Paediatric Society.

I have always stated my willingness to share this intellectual property conditional upon using ISPAD standards and guidelines remaining the foundation of any variation. Australia can and must aim for the highest possible international ISPAD standards.

In addition, a Parent Guide for International Best Practice Type 1 Diabetes Care of Diabetes in Australian Schools has now been launched. This is a new advocacy initiative aimed to empower parent and support the development of a close working relationship between the 3 main stakeholders - parent, school and treating medical team. I have sent you a hard copy via post. It can be downloaded from <https://www.t1d.org.au/diabetes-at-school/a-parent-guide> free of charge.

There has also been resounding local and international support for this additional new initiative.

Minister, there is much to be done to improve the outcomes for children with Type 1 Diabetes. The situation remains urgent, particularly in regional Australia. Funding treating teams to visit schools is desperately required. There is a willingness and urgency from my colleagues and I to provide far better outcomes for children as evidenced by the enormous voluntary work done with the not for profit T1D Learning Centre containing resources such as the T1D e-learning modules for schools and T1D Parent Guide.

Minister, with your support we could take Australia to a world leadership position for children with Type 1 Diabetes. Why shouldn't Australia emerge from the current embarrassingly poor results to become the international child Type 1 Diabetes standard bearer along with Sweden?

The Australian Paediatric Society are very pleased to assist, support and collaborate but not at the expense of departure from international ISPAD best practice. Could I please meet with you or one of your political colleagues regarding how to make this process happen in the best interests of our children living with Type 1 Diabetes?

Yours Sincerely



Peter Goss
Chair APS Diabetes Committee

Cc Hon Katie Allen MP
Hon Chris Bowen MP
Hon Richard Marles MP
Greg Johnson CEO Diabetes Australia
Helen Woodhead President ISPAD
Mike Wilson CEO JDRF
Type 1 Voice