

Media Release

Joffa and Joffre cycle for epilepsy

On 30 July, Joffa Corfe, Collingwood cheer-squad identity, and Port Adelaide player Danyle Pearce's father, Joffre Pearce, will cycle from Melbourne to Adelaide's AAMI Stadium in time for the Round 20 Collingwood vs Port Adelaide clash on 6 August, in an epilepsy fundraiser.

Joffa aims to raise \$5,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria's Parent Epilepsy Support Network, for parents of children with uncontrolled epilepsy.

Joffa's daughter Emma was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 13. "Love me or loathe me, we're going to tell you about epilepsy – that it's okay to have epilepsy and that everyone should know seizure first aid. If I can make a difference to one person's life, then I'm going to do everything I can to make that difference."

Better known for his gold jacket, Joffa will be a very visible site out on the road in a gold bike helmet. Joffa and Joffre hope to cycle more than 100kms each day, spending one night in the following towns:

30 July Ballarat
31 July Stawell
1 August Horsham
2 August Nhill
3 August Bordertown
4 August Coonalpyn
5 August Murray Bridge
6 August Adelaide – Football Park

Epilepsy is a disorder of brain function that takes the form of recurring seizures. A seizure occurs when sudden uncontrolled bursts of electrical activity disrupt this regular pattern. It is estimated approximately four percent of the population will have epilepsy at some stage in their life.

The Epilepsy Foundation works to raise awareness of epilepsy in the community to increase understanding and create a more welcoming and inclusive society.

The parents of a child with uncontrolled epilepsy wrote in response to a recent study: "Although our child has physically and mentally drained us, pushed us to our limits, caused us to unfairly expect more from her siblings and tested our marriage, we don't blame her. We love her. We will try anything, see anyone, in a bid to find her a quality of life."

Joffa is available for functions and can drop into the local footy club while in town. Enquiries can be forwarded to emoore@epilepsy.asn.au or joffacorfe@hotmail.com. Direct contact on the ride with the two Joffs can be made through Emma Moore in their support vehicle 0418 770 716.

Anyone interested to learn more about epilepsy can take the Epilepsy Smart Quiz – and get Epilepsy Smart (www.epilepsysmart.org.au).

The Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria provides support for people living with epilepsy and their families to help them achieve their goals. Our services include information, advice and support, epilepsy counselling and practical assistance, as well as education and training, research and advocacy on behalf of people with epilepsy. We work to raise awareness of epilepsy in the community to reduce the stigma and create a more welcoming and inclusive society.

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