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a charity dedicated to improving lives affected by eosinophilic diseases

eosaware.com

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feedingtubeaware.com.au

**** MEDIA RELEASE ****

Everyone eats differently, for some it's through a tube: education is here

From 6-12 February 2022, national charity, ausEE Inc., is hosting Australia's Feeding Tube Awareness Week (FTAW). ausEE CEO and Founder, Sarah Gray, invites the community to take part in FTAW to learn about tube feeding and raise awareness and support for those living with feeding tubes.

Throughout the week, daily video presentations will be released as a part of their FTAW 2022 Virtual Education Program. The free virtual event is an Australian first for tube feeding, exhibiting 14 video presentations with 14 speakers including specialists and individuals/families with lived experience.

The line-up includes health professionals across a variety of fields including gastroenterology, dietetics, speech pathology, and psychology, covering topics such as blended tube feeding, tube weaning, and mental health tips for parents/carers. ausEE's Virtual Education Program also provides a voice for speakers who have taken the opportunity to share their personal experience with tube feeding and how it has played a role in their inspirational life journeys. Stacey, Sarah, Jess, Col, and Sue have virtually come together to share their perspectives on living with tube feeding. Together they acknowledge their individual struggles that having a feeding tube has brought to their life but also highlight their appreciation for tube feeding. They encourage others to feel proud of their tube and not embarrassed, as for many, it's the reason they are alive. Jess Cochran, a disability advocate, expressed that 'My tube has given me my life back. I wouldn't be here without it.'

There are many reasons why babies, children or adults may require tube feeding (or enteral nutrition) as a way food and fluids can get into their body if they are unable to eat/drink or unable to eat/drink enough. The two most common types of feeding tubes are a nasogastric tube (NG), which is a tube that is put up the nose and down into the stomach and a gastrostomy (G-tube) which is surgically inserted into the stomach.

Founded in 2009, ausEE Inc. is Australia's peak national support and patient advocacy organization for eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders, just one condition, out of hundreds, that can require patients to have a feeding tube. Sarah Gray, says, 'This week is about bringing everyone together who has a feeding tube, whatever the reason may be.'

Access to the free virtual education program can be found at www.feedingtubeaware.com.au. The website also provides a platform for links to information, tube stories, practical resources, and support networks

for Australasians living with feeding tubes and fosters partnerships for resource sharing with other disability and patient advocacy organisations.

This February 6-12, ausEE is asking people to unite to increase awareness and understanding in the community about tube feeding and share their story and views on social media for #FTAW2022.

**** ENDS ****

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Jess is represented by Champion Health Agency: <https://www.championhealthagency.com/jess-cochran>