

08:14AM... a new day turns into a new chapter... This is Indy's story.

When Indy was in Year 9 in 2018, she decided she wanted to become a plumber. With her heart set on her new career path, Indy studied hard, excelling in her subjects. The time came for her to do work experience and with great excitement she set off early to get to the worksite.

At 8:14AM Indy suddenly collapsed, falling backwards, hitting her head. By 8:30AM her distraught father called Indy's mum, Bianca, to tell her their daughter had been admitted to hospital.

The doctors were unable to tell Bianca what had happened to her beautiful daughter. Reflecting back, Bianca believes that Indy may have been experiencing seizures earlier than that day. When Indy was younger, she would act aggressively and other times she would ignore her mum. For Indy all she wanted to do was sleep. *"I just wanted to sleep all the time. Looking back, it probably was me having seizures in my sleep. I never understood why I constantly needed to keep sleeping."*

As the days and weeks passed, Indy's collapse was soon forgotten. Life went back to normal. Yet as the months went on, Indy's parents noticed that she was ignoring them. Her excellent grades began to slide, her ability to study was being affected.

Unbeknown to Indy and her family, she was experiencing absence seizures and was getting progressively worse. Indy had become very forgetful, tired and constantly yearned to sleep.

Life changed for Indy. As Bianca shared, *"2020 had become the year of the hospital."*



Finally, Indy's parents were told their daughter was having multiple seizures a day and that she has epilepsy. Indy was also told that her dreams of becoming a plumber were no longer possible.

That day, 21 May 2020, was the beginning of Indy's own journey with epilepsy. Soon after, her parents contacted the Epilepsy Foundation. We have been right by their side, providing them with the support, information and care they need to understand and manage Indy's epilepsy. And although Indy can no longer pursue her dream of becoming a plumber, she is now completing her studies in childcare.

Having a loved one diagnosed with epilepsy can be a lonely journey. While extended family and friends mean well, often they're not fully aware of the worries and concerns parents like Bianca face. We're here to answer every question a parent has about their child's epilepsy, sending them vital resources and information. We regularly check to see how they are doing and how they're coping. We make sure they never feel alone, and if they're struggling, we're ready to assure them. We're here for them.

You can help families continue to be fully supported with the information and care they need. Visit www.epilepsyfoundation.org.au/1every33 and give today.