

MEDIA ALERT

EMBARGOED: 12:01AM AEST, TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

Lisa Curry AO to lead national call for 4,000+ adult volunteers for world's largest genetics study on eating disorders

Triple Olympian Lisa Curry AO will front a national appeal tomorrow, [Tuesday, May 20](#), for 4,000+ adults with lived experience of an eating disorder, to join the world's largest genetics investigation into the risk factors driving these complex illnesses.¹

The study will strive to pinpoint the hundreds of genes influencing a person's risk of developing anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge-eating disorder and Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), to improve treatment, and save lives.

Ms Curry's appeal for study volunteers, in partnership with researchers, doctors and patients Australia-wide will coincide with the publication of an article in *MJA Insight+*, revealing how the complex interplay of genetic, environmental and psychological factors in eating disorders,² has hindered effective treatment breakthroughs.³



The Aussie sporting legend, mother-of-three, grandmother-to-three, wellness entrepreneur and author is supporting the genetics study due to the heartbreaking loss of her daughter Jaimi, 33, who was trapped in an eating disorder for 18 years.

"Too little is known about eating disorders, which affect over a million Australians.⁴

"Individuals and families affected deserve answers, earlier intervention, and personalised treatments that work," said Ms Curry.

"This investigation will unite global experts to unravel the complex genetic and environmental puzzle behind eating disorders."

To learn more about the investigation striving to decode the genetics of eating disorders to identify risk, and transform treatment, tee up an interview with a spokesperson overleaf.

Volunteers can head to edgi2.org.au or email edgi2@qimrb.edu.au.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

LISA CURRY AO

NB. Lisa Curry AO has provided an extensive, pre-recorded VNR interview + supporting overlay & audio grabs, which are available for download from our digital media kit: edgi2mediakit.org

EDGI2 AUSTRALIA INVESTIGATORS

Professor Nick Martin	Lead Investigator, Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative 2 (EDGI2) & Head, Genetic Epidemiology, QIMR Berghofer, BRISBANE
Professor Sarah Maguire OAM	Chief Investigator, EDGI2 Australian, Clinical Psychologist & Director, InsideOut Institute, SYDNEY

EDGI2 GLOBAL LEAD PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Professor Cynthia Bulik	Distinguished Professor of Eating Disorders; Founding Director, Centre of Excellence for Eating Disorders, University of North Carolina; Founder & Director, Centre for Eating Disorders Innovation at Karolinska Institute; & Global Lead Principal Investigator, Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative 2 (EDGI2), NORTH CAROLINA, USA & SWEDEN
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OTHER EXPERTS

Annabel Johnston	Gut health dietitian and founder, Nutrition for Living, BRISBANE
Olivia Soha	Certified Eating Disorder Recovery Coach & Founder & Director of 'Uncovery' who lived with an eating disorder, MELBOURNE
Dr. June Alexander	Author, life-writing mentor, blogger, diarist & eating disorder advocate who lived with an eating disorder, GEELONG
Professor Tracey Wade	Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor, College of Education, Psychology and Social, ADELAIDE
Professor Sarah Cohen-Woods	Professor of Psychology, Flinders University Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing & Head of the Behavioural Genetic & Environmental Mechanisms Lab, Flinders University, ADELAIDE
Dr Bronwyn Raykos	Clinical psychologist, researcher & founder of Morgan Psychology, PERTH
Dr Tiegian Holtham	Clinical Psychologist, The Flourish Collective & Headspace, DARWIN
Natasha Berthold	PhD student, The University of Western Australia & The Perron Institute, & Visiting Scholar, University of North Carolina's Centre of Excellence for Eating Disorders, North Carolina, USA

PATIENT ADVOCACY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Jane Rowan	Executive Director, Eating Disorders Families Australia (EDFA) & lived experience eating disorder carer, BRISBANE
Mark & Gayle Forbes	Co-founders of mental health charity, endED, whose daughters have both lived with an eating disorder, SUNSHINE COAST
Don Irvine	Father who became an eating disorder advocate after his eldest daughter's decade-long battle with anorexia nervosa, PERTH

AUSTRALIANS WITH EATING DISORDER EXPERIENCE

Lexi, 36	Clinical nutritionist who endured more than 25 hospitalisations with anorexia nervosa over 18 years, BRISBANE
Emily, 22	Peer mental health support worker who wrestled with bulimia nervosa & binge eating disorder for over seven years, BRISBANE
Tayla, 25	Dietitian & former elite athlete who waged a silent battle with anorexia nervosa, SUNSHINE COAST
Rosiel, 34	PhD student, eating disorder lived experience consultant & identical twin who battled anorexia nervosa for 25+ years, SUNSHINE COAST
Hayley, 24	Student, artist & aspiring teacher who struggled with anorexia nervosa for nine years, GOLD COAST
Elise, 39	Breathwork & meditation facilitator, empowerment coach, cold immersion specialist who lived with anorexia nervosa for 23 years, SYDNEY
Vanessa, 48	Counsellor who wrestled with binge eating disorder for 25 years, SYDNEY

Sophie, 33	Postdoctoral neuroscience researcher with a family history of eating disorders who struggled with anorexia nervosa for 15 years, SYDNEY
Liam, 27	Tech company Chief Commercial Officer who grappled with anorexia nervosa for eight years, NEWCASTLE
Kaylee, 26	Creative art therapist & disability support worker whose anorexia nervosa robbed her childhood, WOLLONGONG
Dr. June Alexander	Author, life-writing mentor, blogger, diarist & eating disorder advocate who lived with an eating disorder, GEELONG
Jenni-Lee, 66	Author, speaker, award-winning writer & counsellor who grappled with anorexia nervosa for nine years, ADELAIDE
Lauren, 35	Mental health peer support worker & mother-of-three who battled anorexia nervosa for 14 years, ADELAIDE
Shannon, 48	Lived experience educator & dog lover who grappled with anorexia nervosa & bulimia nervosa for more than three decades, PERTH
Sophie, 27	Aspiring primary school teacher who wrestled with other specified feeding or eating disorder (OSFED) from 15 years of age, PERTH
DIGITAL MEDIA KIT	edgi2mediakit.org
BROADCAST VISION	edgi2mediakit.org/VNR FEATURING DOWNLOADABLE INTERVIEW + OVERLAY WITH LISA CURRY AO
AUDIO GRABS	edgi2mediakit.org/ANR FEATURING DOWNLOADABLE GRABS FROM LISA CURRY AO
MEDIA CONTACTS + INTERVIEWS	Kirsten Bruce & Sam Jacobs, VIVA! Communications M 0401 717 566 0422 654 404 T 02 9968 3741 02 9968 1604 E kirstenbruce@vivacommunications.com.au sam@vivacommunications.com.au

Should you suspect you, or a loved one, may be living with an eating disorder, speak to your local healthcare practitioner without delay, or head to insideoutinstitute.org.au to complete their online screener and assessment, and to access more information and professional support.

Australian professional patient support services offering 24/7 helpline services include:

- Butterfly National Helpline: 1800 334 673
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
- LifeLine: 13 11 14
- Men's Line Australia: 1300 78 99 78
- Kids Help Line: 1800 55 1800

References

1. National Eating Disorders Collaboration. What is an Eating Disorder? [Website]. 2024 [Available from: <https://nedc.com.au/eating-disorders/eating-disorders-explained/whats-an-eating-disorder>].
2. National Eating Disorders collaboration. Risk & Protective Factors 2025 [Available from: <https://nedc.com.au/eating-disorders/eating-disorders-explained/risk-and-protective-factors>].
3. Grilo CM. Treatment of Eating Disorders: Current Status, Challenges, and Future Directions. Annu Rev Clin Psychol. 2024;20(1):97-123.
4. National Eating Disorders Collaboration. Eating Disorders in Australia 2025 [Available from: <https://nedc.com.au/eating-disorders/eating-disorders-explained/eating-disorders-in-australia>].