

History of the Mick Leary Educational Trust

Statistics show that as a consequence of prejudice, people with epilepsy struggle to find employment on the open labour market. Having identified this problem, Epilepsy South Africa, formerly known as SANEL, needed to find a way in which to rectify the situation, and as a result the Mick Leary Educational Trust was established.

The Trust is named after Professor Mick Leary, a former Epilepsy South Africa Chairperson, Paediatric Neurologist, and epilepsy expert. It was established and launched at EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA's AGM in 1997, to commemorate the organization's 30th Anniversary, an event that coincided with Professor Leary's retirement as EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA's Chairperson. At the time Professor Leary had been involved with EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA for 27 of its 30 years.

Several companies, including some of the large pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers of anticonvulsant medications, have donated funds for bursaries.

Bursaries are given out at the start of each year, and details of how to apply are provided below.

Aims of the Trust

- To enable people with epilepsy to study at tertiary level
- To empower people from marginalised and previously disadvantaged communities
- To create role models of individuals with epilepsy, to whom others with the condition can look for advice and inspiration
- People with epilepsy are often denied bursaries on account of their condition. The trust aims to correct this and to ensure that these individuals are able to graduate, and be more employable on the open labour market.

Who can apply?

- Any individual with epilepsy, who has been accepted for study at a tertiary educational institution, may apply.
- Bursaries are available for study at any tertiary institution. Applicants are encouraged to pursue careers for which they have an aptitude, as well as those for which there is a need or demand in the labour market.
- In addition to having epilepsy, the Trustees will also take into account factors such as the financial situation of the applicant or their parents, academic

performance and community involvement.

What is expected from the Mick Leary Bursar?

Epilepsy South Africa and the Mick Leary Educational Trust hope to create a lasting relationship with the recipients of bursaries. Although recipients will not be required to pay back the bursary, the Trustees expect that on completion of their studies, anyone receiving grants from the Trust will involve themselves in the activities of Epilepsy South Africa. Mick Leary Educational Trust Bursars are expected to do voluntary work for a minimum of one week per year at their closest Epilepsy South Africa branch. The Mick Leary Bursar should also attend a nearby Branch Annual General Meeting and, if possible, the National Annual General Meeting.

Furthermore, in an attempt to help facilitate the Trust's aim of creating role models the Trust may request that Bursars have their stories published in Epinews (Epilepsy South Africa's national publication) and that they visit and advise more people with disability at Epilepsy South Africa residential homes or employment projects.

Partnerships

The Trust wishes to do more than simply pay for a person's course of study. Instead it hopes that special and lasting relationships will develop between the Trust and the beneficiaries. Once the Mick Leary Bursars have qualified, and are working in their chosen fields, The Trust expects that they will make their services available to Epilepsy South Africa and the Mick Leary Educational Trust - who will in turn be able to assist the many less fortunate people with epilepsy who will never be able to study.

How to apply

- Ask your local branch of Epilepsy South Africa for an application form.
- Contact Epilepsy South Africa National Office at (021) 447-3014 or via e-mail at: info@epilepsy.org.za
- Or, complete the form below and post it to

Mick Leary Educational Trust
c/o Epilepsy South Africa
PO Box 73
Observatory
7935

For further information about the Mick Leary Educational Trust, please call our

Epilepsy South Africa offices on any of the following numbers -

National Office	(021) 447 3014
Western Cape	(021) 447 3012
South-Cape Karoo	(044) 382 2155
Durban & Coastal	(031) 309 1370
KwaZulu Natal	(033) 394 1041
Mpumalanga	(013) 254 0161
Gauteng	(011) 816 2040
Free State	(056) 811 5959

Please send me application forms
for the Mick Leary Educational
Trust

Name:

Code:

Fax:

Email:

MICK LEARY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

**Assisting Learners with Epilepsy to
Achieve their Fullest Potential**

An initiative of

