



## World Diabetes Day

Diabetes is a leading global cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and amputation. The number of people living with diabetes has increased considerably over the past 30 years. In 1985, an estimated 30 million people worldwide had diabetes. A little over a decade later, the figure had risen to over 150 million. Today, according to the International Diabetes Federation and World Health Organization, the figure exceeds 300 million. Unless action is taken to implement effective prevention and control programmes, it is predicted that the total number of people with diabetes will reach 440 million by 2030.

The DRFWA is the leading organization which funds research into diabetes in Western Australia and was instrumental in the establishment of the Centre for Diabetes Research in Perth. This Centre conducts cutting edge world-wide research and is making some very exciting breakthroughs surrounding diabetes.

World Diabetes Day is celebrated every year on November 14. It was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to growing concerns about the escalating threat of diabetes worldwide. In 2007, World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day as a result of UN Resolution 61/225. The Resolution invites all member states to participate in World Diabetes Day and draw attention to the need for education and awareness to tackle the growing diabetes epidemic.

World Diabetes Day is a global event that unites millions of people in over 160 countries to raise awareness of diabetes. Numerous local and national events are organized by organizations and individuals with an interest in diabetes. In 2008 and 2009, the global diabetes community worked together with local champions to light iconic landmarks and buildings in blue to mark World Diabetes Day around the world. More than 1000 monuments were lit in blue in 2009.

This year the DRFWA hope to encourage more iconic buildings and monuments to light up and would like to invite you to participate on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> November. We hope you will join the campaign and look forward to working with you.

Please let us know your plans and send us some pictures so that we can include them on our website and notify the IDF of our support.

