



Enhancing the News

July 2007

Losing the Battle

The prevalence of diabetes is increasing with around 275 Australians developing the chronic disease each day, yet many are unaware they have the disease.

As stated in a Diabetes Australia paper, an estimated 1.5 million Australians have diabetes but up to half of the cases of type 2 diabetes remain undiagnosed.

The personal, social and financial costs of those affected by this illness are huge. They are at a much greater risk of developing cardiovascular disease and having a heart attack or stroke.

Prevention and detection are identified as key areas to help turn the diabetes epidemic around. Educate students about the seriousness of all types of diabetes and encourage them to adopt healthy lifestyles. The free feature article, [Bigger Than a Health Problem](#), discusses the obesity epidemic and looks at the obesity-related disease, Type 2 Diabetes. For primary students, this episode of [Behind the News](#) examines the differences between diabetes types, and [TTN: Explaining Diabetes](#) reveals how this chronic disease affects every day life and how it can be managed. Also, [Behind the News Specials: Personal Health Choices](#) explores health issues and conveys that everyone can make choices about their personal wellbeing.

To engage secondary and tertiary students, show them [Insight: Dying to Eat](#), which focuses on a number of cases of Type 2 Diabetes in young people and asks whether the disease could have been avoided. [Honey We're Killing the Kids](#) exposes the dangers of an unhealthy diet and a lifestyle lacking in exercise and looks at ways to improve future health. ([Study guide](#) also available) [Catalyst: Don't Die Young – Kidneys](#) presents a detailed look at kidneys and speaks to a mother who, with a family history of diabetes, is stressing out her kidneys. In this episode of the [Help](#) series we witness a lady, who suffers from diabetes, collapse and come close to lapsing into a diabetic coma. [Difference of Opinion: Beating the Bulge – A Supersized Battle](#) discusses the trend towards obesity and comments on the potential link between the rise in childhood obesity and the increasing incidence of Type 2 diabetes among young people. [Difference of Opinion: The Way Ahead for](#)

[Aboriginal Australians](#) addresses the Aboriginal debate and asks what can be done about the devastating toll of so-called lifestyle illnesses such as diabetes?

