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Information Pack on Epilepsy for Educators

An information pack on epilepsy and how to assist persons who show symptoms of this condition is being made available to school teachers in the coming scholastic year.

The Minister for Education, Employment and the Family Mrs Dolores Cristina has welcomed the initiative of the Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association (CMEA) on its initiative to assemble a pack directed at teaching staff as part of an awareness campaign on epilepsy, a condition which is known to have been encountered in schools. Knowledge on how to deal with such situations could be of great assistance to persons affected as well as to those around them.

Minister Cristina was speaking when Caritas Director Mgr. Victor Grech and CMEA Committee members presented her with a copy of the Teachers' Pack, titled "Living Beyond Epilepsy - A Resource for Educators". She said that the pack was very well presented, and that the Ministry would assist with its circulation.

Mgr. Grech said that the Association had been working hard to raise public and professional awareness and dispel myths about epilepsy. He said that the Teachers' Pack was another step in the Association's outreach programme.

CMEA Secretary Mrs. Victoria Dimech said that the pack, which was prepared in conjunction with Brainwave, the Irish Epilepsy Association, contains information addressing issues including explaining epilepsy, seizures in schools, what to do in the case of a seizure, and a checklist on what teachers should know about this condition.



Mrs. Dimech said that epilepsy can affect anyone, at any age, from any social or racial background, damage health and disrupt every aspect of life, imposing physical, psychological and social burdens on individuals and families. It is estimated that 40% of children with epilepsy have difficulty at school.

The most common neurological disorder in clinical practice, epilepsy is known to affect nearly 1% of the world wide population. It is estimated that there are more than 4,000

people who have epilepsy in the Maltese Islands.

An estimated 300,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed each year in Europe, where more than six million people have this condition, affecting 20 million family members.

Also in attendance for the presentation to Minister Cristina were Mr. Mario Schiavone, Communications Coordinator at the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, CMEA President Mr. Mario Dimech, Treasurer Mr. Frank Portelli, Committee Member Mr. Manuel Camilleri and Caritas Malta Public Relations Officer Mr. Joe Sammut.

Posted on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 by Unit Promotion