



EMMA'S STORY

My name is Emma and I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at 4 years of age. I received treatment at the children's and adolescent units of the Children's Hospital where there was support available to help me manage and understand my condition, and I could mix with other people of my own age. I left the Children's Hospital when I turned 18, and all of a sudden I didn't know where to go for 'adult' treatment. There was no unit which catered for young adults, and no database listing health professionals available. I went without treatment for over a year trying (by trial and error) to find a medical professional who understood the needs of my age group. There were many times when I felt like giving up and just trying to look after myself. I felt very isolated, and as though nobody really cared. But I didn't give up, and I have now found a health professional who suits me. As a result of my experience, I have been motivated to become a consumer participant on the Greater Metropolitan Consumer Taskforce, so that hopefully I can help others have an easier transition.