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Diabetes the focus in state bicycle ride

Guy Barnett urges everyone to get behind the annual PolliePedal event

AN estimated 1.2 million Australians live with diabetes every day.

That's five per cent of the entire population. Your mother may have it, your cousin may live with it, your partner or even your child.

I understand this disease touches all of us, because I live with type 1 diabetes.

Diabetes is a condition where the body cannot make insulin or struggles to respond to insulin as it should.

Insulin is vital to the human body because it helps move glucose (the body's energy source) out of the blood stream and into the cells where it is needed and complications associated with the disease can be

250km as we cycle through the leg burning St Marys Pass to Scamander, through Bicheno, Swansea, Triabunna and Orford, with the event concluding in historic Richmond.

During the ride we will experience all Tasmania has to offer, including stunning coastal vistas, winding scenic country roads, seaside towns and a wonderful community spirit.

Riders also engage with schools as a key part of this unique annual fundraising



disease can be devastating.

Diabetes is the leading cause of preventable blindness, lower limb amputation and the single most common cause of kidney failure.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment from organisations like Diabetes Tasmania, today people with diabetes can live a healthy life with the right support and care.

Diabetes Tasmania provides support, education and testing services, and they need our support.

As a Diabetes Australia Ambassador, I am thrilled to continue the charge to help other Tasmanians with diabetes by once again participating in the PolliePedal.

Since helping establish the inaugural event in 2006, I have joined politicians and community members to cycle thousands of kilometres on the way to raising over \$740,000 for Diabetes Tasmania.

This year the 16th annual Diabetes Tasmania Tasmanian PolliePedal will run from today (Friday, February 26) to Sunday (February 28).

Starting from St Helens, riders will grind out more than



Guy Barnett MP will join the Diabetes Tasmania team today for the PolliePedal.

event and raises awareness and funds to support the important work of Diabetes Tasmania.

I have seen the event grow from humble beginnings to a highly anticipated annual event which is now the flagship fundraising event of the year and helps Diabetes Tasmania continue to support locals living with diabetes.

I encourage every Tasmanian to donate to this worthy cause and I thank those who have already registered or donated.

If you would like to support PolliePedal, you can donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Guy-Barnett>

MP Guy Barnett is a minister in the Gutwein state government across a range of portfolios from Primary Industries and Water, Energy, Resources to Veterans' Affairs.