

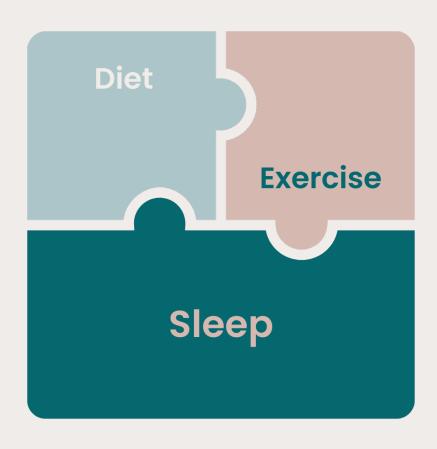


# Living Well to Lead ....via Better Sleep

Dr Moira Junge Health Psychologist Sleep Health Foundation May, 2025



## The Three Pillars of Health







- The importance of sleep
- Impacts on health and longevity
- Ways to improve sleep
- Sorting facts from fads
- Sleep health goes far beyond screen use
- Q & A



# What is the purpose of the Sleep Health Foundation?

## SPOTLIGHT ON SLEEP

- Raise profile
- Lived experience
- Resources

## INSPIRE ACTION ACROSS COMMUNITIES

- Schools
- Workplaces
- Aged Care

# MAKE SLEEP A NATIONAL PRIORITY

Whole of society approach

#### TAKE A SLEEP PULSE CHECK EVERY YEAR

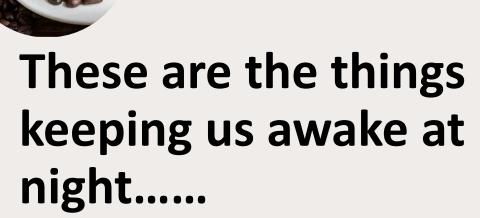
- Surveys
- Influential reports

### SHAPE POLICY FOR BETTER SLEEP

Advocacy













### **Societal Level**

Technology, Public Policy, Globalization, Environment, Geography, 24/7 Society, etc.

#### **Social Level**

Home, Work, Neighborhood, Race/Ethnicity, Socioeconomics, Religion, Culture, etc.

### Individual Level

Genetics, Health, Beliefs, Behavior, Attitudes, Psychology, Choices, etc.

Insufficient or Poor Quality

**SLEEP** 

From: Sleep, Health, and Society Grandner, Michael A. (2022) Sleep Medicine Clinics, Volume 17, Issue 2, 117 - 139

### Harms associated with inadequate sleep

Increased risk of mental health conditions

Increased risk of cardiovascular disease

Increased risk of accidents and injuries

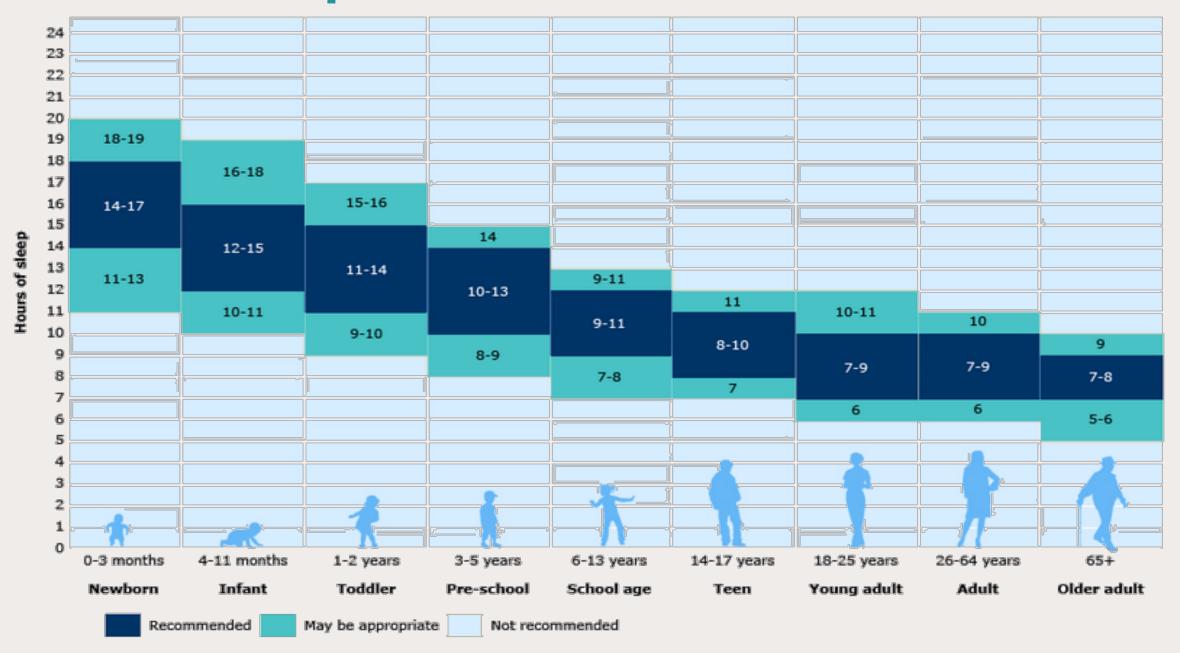
Increased risk of obesity and overweight

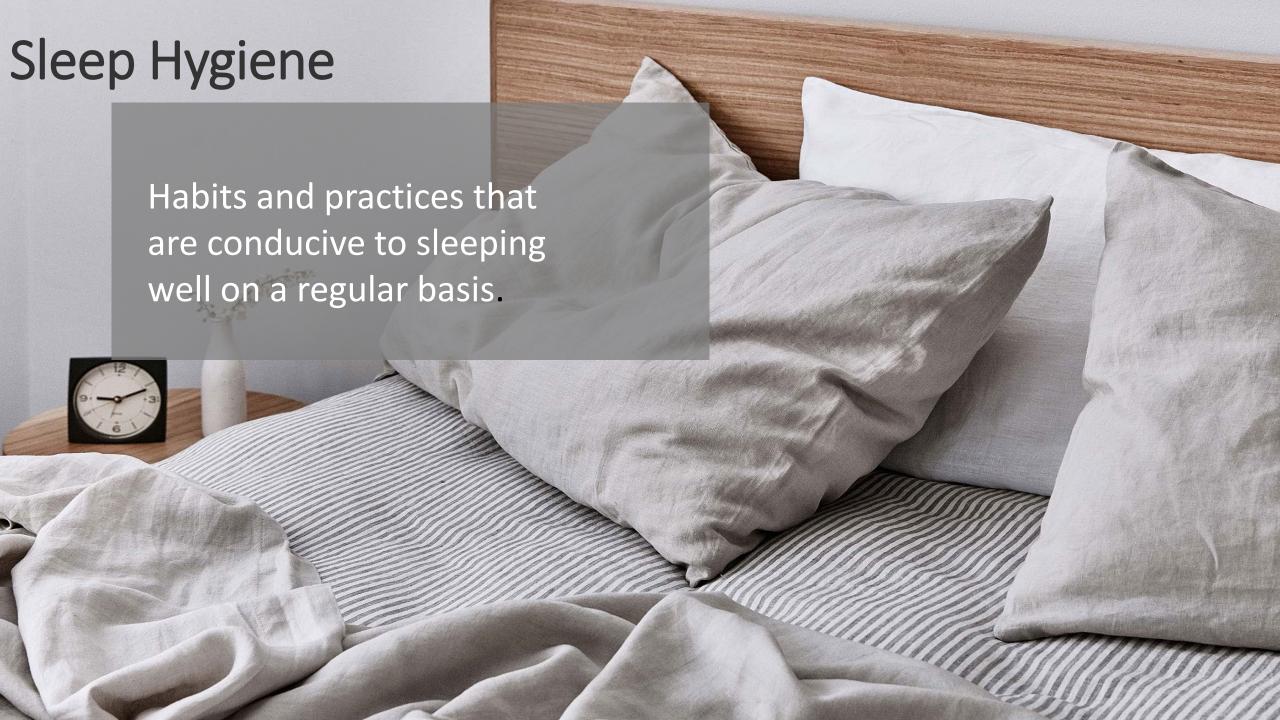
Increased risk of some dementias and some cancers

Reduced immune function

Reduced productivity

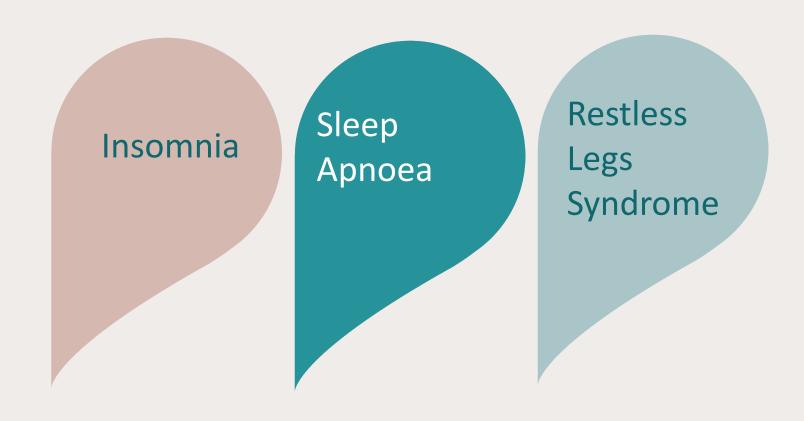
### How much sleep do we need?







## **Common Sleep Disorders**



0 = would never doze

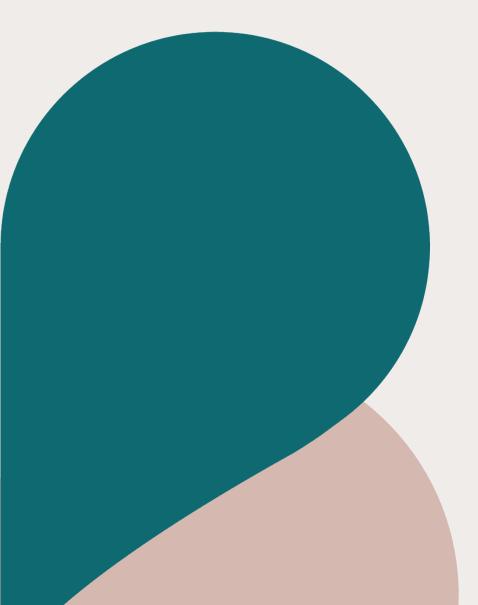
= Slight chance of dozing

2 = Moderate chance of dozing 3 = High chance of dozing

Situation	Chance of dozing
Sitting and reading	
Watching TV	
Sitting, inactive in a public place (e.g. a theatre or a meeting)	
As a passenger in a car for an hour without a break	
Lying down to rest in the afternoon when circumstances permit	
Sitting and talking to someone	
Sitting quietly after a lunch without alcohol	
In a car, while stopped for a few minutes in the traffic	
Total	

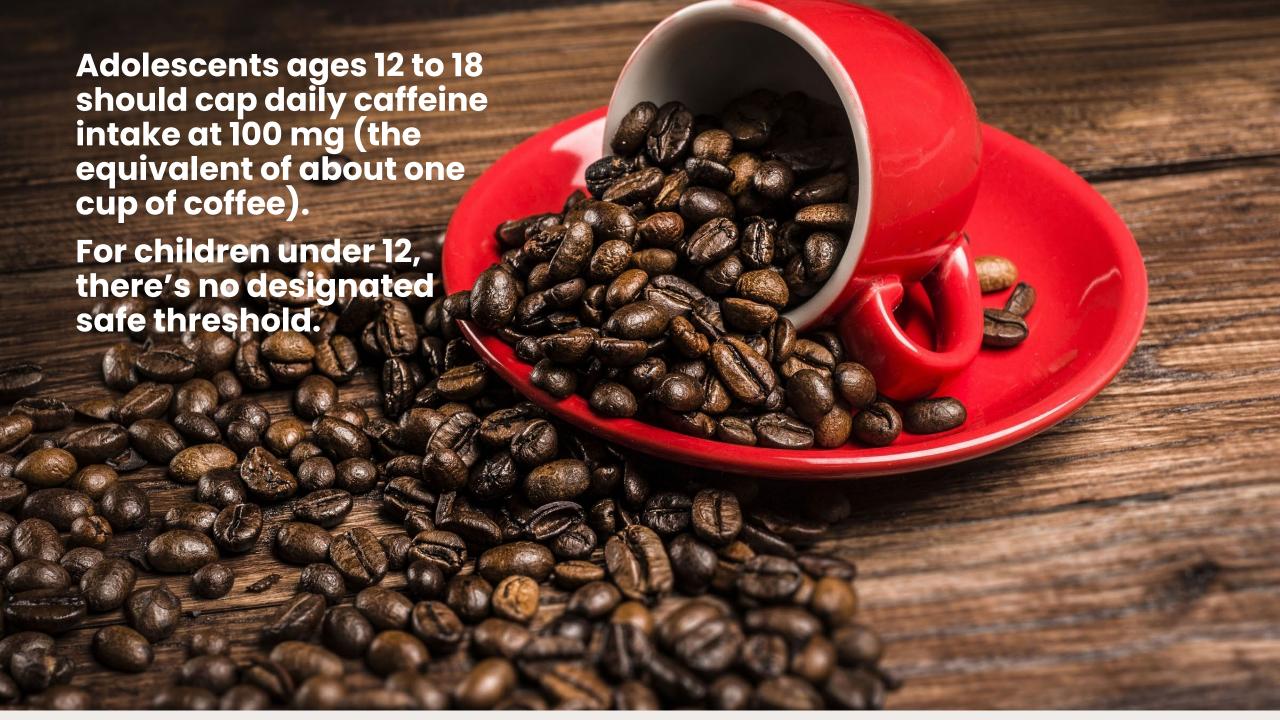
### Meet Mike Frost- he has sleep apnoea





## Early bird or Night Owl?





# You will be surprised at the amount of caffeine in soft drinks- tell your students and whoever runs the canteen



https://www.tastingtable.com/1350827/caffeine-content-popular-sodas-ranked-low-high/

## Sleep and Schools...



- Parents and teachers and young people need to value sleep and understand its importance
- Seek support if sleep is totally inadequate
- Be well educated about light/dark influences
- Limit (not always avoid) screen use before bedtime and promote consistent sleep routines.
- Limit caffeine
- Educate families and schools on the importance of sleep and good sleep habits.
- Encourage physical activity and exposure to natural light during the day
- Consistent routines are key
- Do not mouth tape

# How to get healthier sleep at all ages



- Make room for sleep
- Don't aim for perfection- sleep anxiety is the enemy!
- Waking is normal!
- Be aware of influences of light and dark
- Manage external disruptions (noise, light, phones etc)
- Manage internal disruptions (worry, stress, caffeine, good food)
- If a child is a snorer and if sleepy, and seemingly getting plenty of sleep see GP and get referral
- If worried about sleep and try self help has been tried for 2-3 months (with expert advice) then seek help

## Myth busting



- Melatonin is 100% safe and has no risks No
- Mouth taping is worth a try? Not in kids
- Kids all need the same amount of sleep No
- All sleep problems are due to technology No
- There is no help out there. No
- Social media health messages must be accurate especially coming from a health professional. **No**

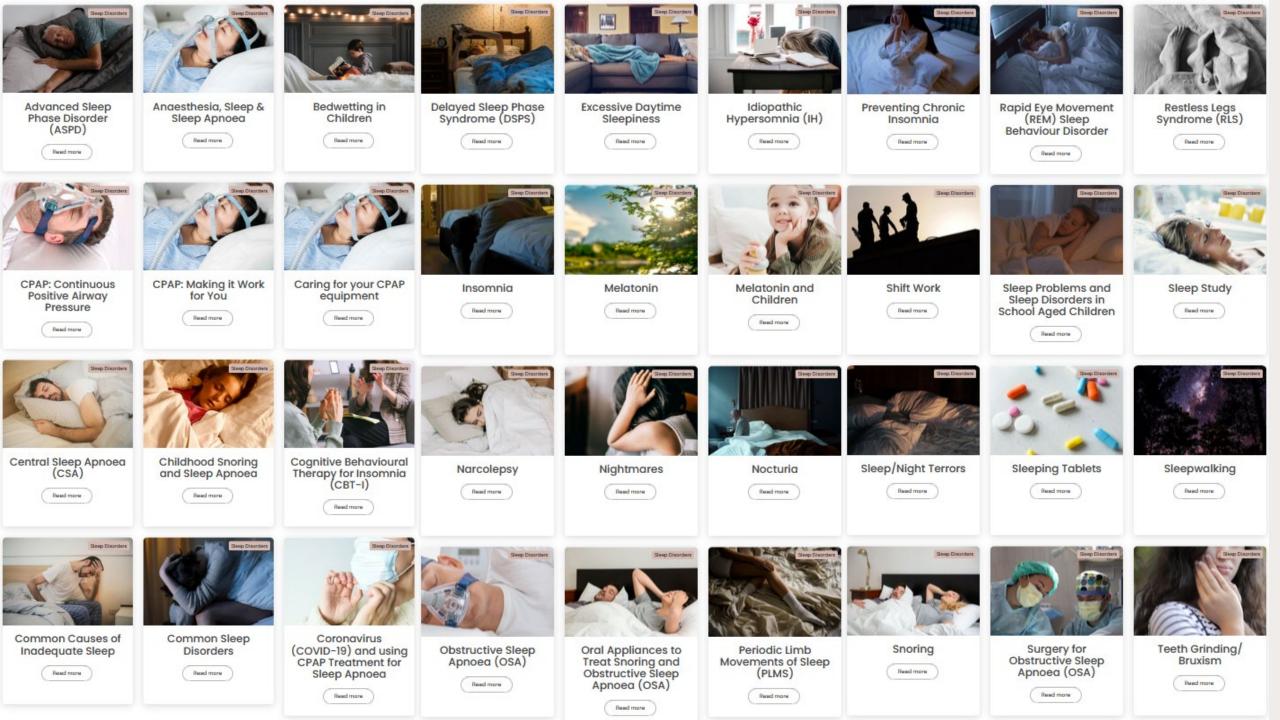
# Creating better sleep culture and environments

- Ideas for this? Place in the chat!
  Get involved in Sleep Health Week (Aug 11-15, 2025)
- World Sleep Day (March 2026)
- Do you have sleep as a focus area in your health and wellness conversations and strategies at home and work?
- Potentially delay school start times to align with adolescent sleep cycles (talk of this since 1994!)

# Handy sleep resources:



- <u>www.sleephealthfoundation.org.au</u> (all ages)
- This Way Up: <a href="https://thiswayup.org.au/programs/insomnia-program/">https://thiswayup.org.au/programs/insomnia-program/</a>
- A Mindful Way to Healthy Sleep (adults) https://www.amindfulway.com.au/
- For Children: Sleep with Kip https://sleepwithkip.com/
- Raising Children's Network https://raisingchildren.net.au/
- Sleep Ninja app for teens (Black Dog)
- Smiling Mind (all ages)





### Find out more about us

Sleep Health Foundation





#### **Moira Junge – links to share:**

https://www.sleephealthfoundation.org.au/sleep-stories https://www.sleephealthfoundation.org.au/sleepcategories/children-adolescents-parents

Moira's podcast <a href="https://sleephub.com.au/podcast/">https://sleephub.com.au/podcast/</a>

#### Relevant research papers:

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5800866/

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2352154 619301275

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00178969241286660