



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 4 April 2008

MS AUSTRALIA THANKS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR PBS LISTING

MS Australia is pleased to learn that the Federal Government has committed to subsidise the MS treatment, Tysabri, on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) as of 1 July, 2008.

Dr Bill Carroll, Chairman of MS Australia's Research Committees said that this is the first new MS drug to gain PBS listing in some time and will be a most welcome addition to the range of treatment options for patients and their doctors.

"MS Australia would like to acknowledge the Federal Government for making such a large economic commitment and in doing so recognising the hope this treatment brings to many people with Multiple Sclerosis," said Dr Carroll.

"For those suited to this treatment, it is possible their MS progression and accumulated disability may be minimised. Staying in the workforce longer, remaining in the family home and continuing to be active members of the community is a real benefit this treatment may offer."

Tysabri is suitable for those with Relapsing Remitting MS only and people should discuss this treatment option with their neurologist.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic and debilitating disease, characterised by damage to the nerve pathways that transmit signals from the brain to the rest of the body. Each working day five Australians are diagnosed with MS.

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