

2024-25 FEDERAL BUDGET



RESEARCH
ADVOCACY
CURE

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH MS



Research funding towards better treatments, prevention and cures

- Development of reliable markers of early disease through a MS biobank
- Earlier detection of MS preserves precious brain tissue and halts or delays disease progression
- Establishment of a MRFF Neurological Mission
- Bring together key stakeholders to tackle the health challenges related to neurological conditions



Funding for improved neurological data

- Significant gaps in data on neurological and neuromuscular conditions
- High quality data helps build a strong evidence base and helps in planning and evaluating programs and funding
- AIHW best placed to identify gaps and opportunities and establish a dataset



Funding to increase access to MS nurses

- 1/3 of Australians living with MS do not have access to a MS nurse
- Access to MS nurse care leads to better health outcomes and substantial health cost savings
- Tasmanian pilot project to assist in designing and testing a model of MS nurse care
- Collaboration between MS Australia, MS Nurses Australasia and the University of Tasmania

PROPOSED MAY 2024 BUDGET MEASURES



Funding a National MS Biobank

\$8 million over five years



Funding a MRFF Neurological Mission Roadmap & Implementation plan

\$250,000



Funding the AIHW to identify neurological data gaps & opportunities

\$550,000



MS nurses pilot project in Tasmania

\$3 million over four years



Employing an additional 65 MS Nurses

\$6.5 million

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH MS

Improved support for people living with disability

- People living with disability need an improved NDIS and disability supports
- Funding the recommendations of the NDIS Review Final Report will improve outcomes including:
 - » Improving and expanding the NDIA and disability workforce
 - » Improving assessment, access and planning processes
 - » Improving living supports and assistive technology
 - » Introducing foundational disability supports outside individualised NDIS packages
- People with disability deserve to live in a more inclusive society free from abuse and exploitation in line with the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission.
- Further support through an increase in the rates of the Disability Support Pension and other income support payments



Improved support for people ageing with MS

- Older Australians living with MS need access to supports and services that cater to their needs
- Funding to reform the aged care system to better meet the needs of people living with disability and chronic health conditions including:
 - » Redesigning services
 - » Improving access to assistive technology, allied health and housing
 - » Capacity building providers and training staff
 - » Updating legislation, policies and procedures.
- Aligns with Recommendation 72 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety to ensure the aged care system meets the needs of people living with disability

MS PREVALENCE

There were **33,335 people living with MS in Australia** in 2021, an increase of 7,728 people (from 25,607 people) since 2017*.

An increase in the number of Australians living with MS corresponds with an increase in the total costs for people with MS in Australia, with total costs for all people increasing from **\$1.751 billion** in 2017 to **\$2.449 billion** in 2021.

*Health Economic Impact of Multiple Sclerosis in Australia in 2021

MS Australia is Australia's national MS not-for-profit organisation that empowers researchers to identify ways to treat, prevent and cure MS, seeks sustained and systemic policy change via advocacy, and acts as the national champion for Australia's community of people affected by MS.

MS Australia's 2024-25 Pre-Budget Submission provides full details of MS Australia's budget asks. You can view the submission at www.msaustralia.org.au/2024-2025-pre-budget-submission

