



AUSTRALIA

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer, is hugging a person from behind. The person being hugged is wearing a purple and white striped sweater and blue jeans. They are in a cafe or kitchen setting with other people in the background. The bottom of the image has a red overlay with a white geometric pattern.

WHAT IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS?

If you're living with MS,
or know someone who is,
you are not alone.



AUSTRALIA

**RESEARCH
ADVOCACY
CURE**

MS Australia is Australia's national multiple sclerosis (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.



Queensland



South Australia &
Northern Territory



Life not limits

MS Australia represents and collaborates with its state and territory MS Member Organisations, people with MS, their carers, families and friends, and various national and international bodies to:



Fund, coordinate, educate and advocate for MS research as part of the worldwide effort to solve MS

Provide the latest evidence-based information and resources



Help meet the needs of people affected by MS

OUR MISSION

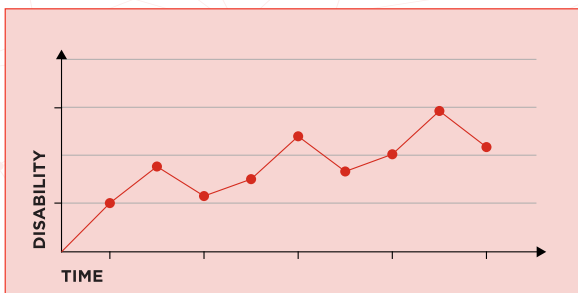
**A WORLD
WITHOUT**

MS

TWO MAIN FORMS OF MS

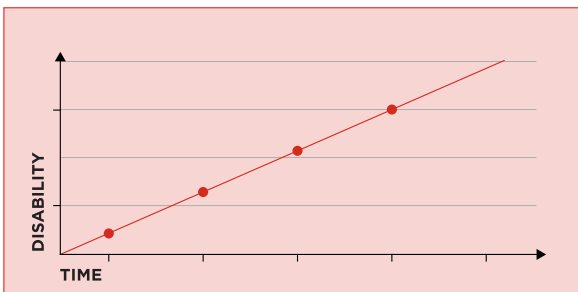
1. RELAPSING MS

Relapsing MS is where people usually have times of stability in between flareups or relapses. After a relapse, symptoms, which may last for days or even weeks, may ease or go away completely. Growing evidence suggests that early and ongoing treatment with disease-modifying therapies can help manage symptoms, slow the damage, and help reduce relapsing MS attacks.



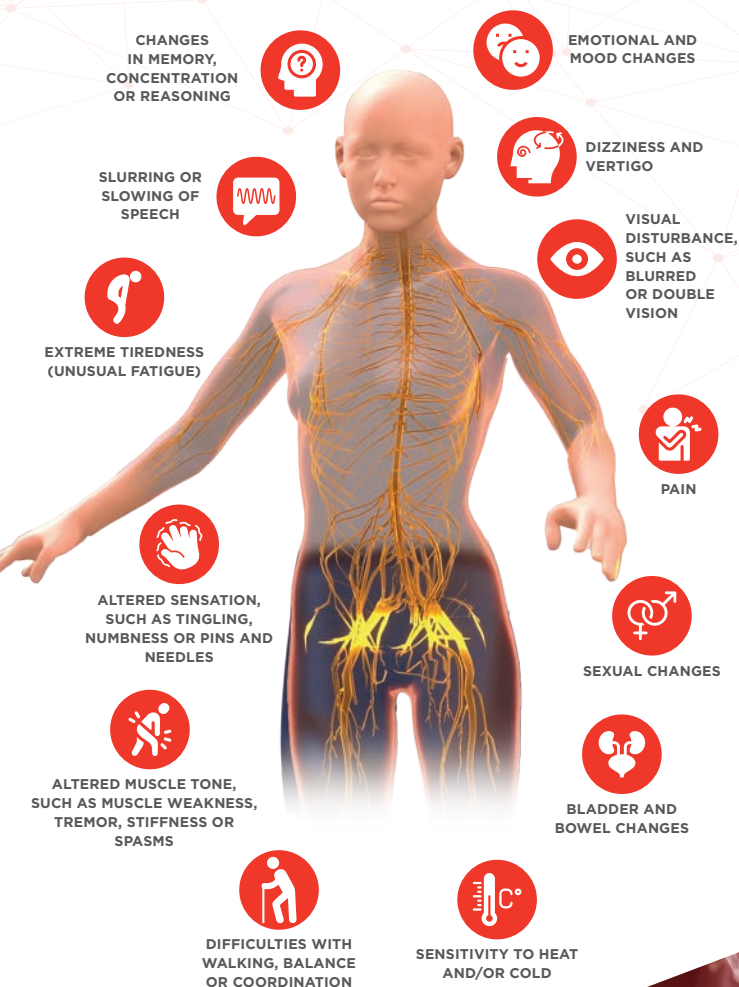
2. PROGRESSIVE MS

Progressive MS is where people experience a gradual worsening of symptoms and disability without periods of recovery. It manifests differently in individuals over time, but without treatment, disability steadily accumulates.



COMMON SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of MS can be both visible and invisible to others, are unpredictable and vary from person to person and from time to time in the same person.



WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, which make up our central nervous system that controls everything we do, from physical movement to thought processes and decision-making.

Myelin is the coating on our nerves that protects them, and helps them send messages quickly between the brain and the rest of the body.

In MS, our immune system attacks myelin by mistake, treating it like an infection. When myelin is damaged, the messages travelling along the nerve become distorted, or they don't get through at all. This interruption of communication signals causes unpredictable symptoms, such as numbness, tingling, mood changes, memory problems, pain, fatigue, vision disturbances, or coordination issues.



MS affects more young adults than any other acquired chronic neurological disease



Nearly 3m people live with MS worldwide



More than 33,300 Australians live with MS



Average age of diagnosis is between 20-40 years



3 out of 4 Australians diagnosed with MS are women



62% of people with MS use a disease modifying therapy (DMT), a decrease of 2% since 2017

OUR MISSION

A WORLD WITHOUT MS

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MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**



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**RESEARCH
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