MSWA

Life not limits



Annual Impact Report 2025-2026

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, MSWA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands and language groups of Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Client Anita Asker with her artwork Gone Pear Shaped.

A message from our Chair and CEO

A year of innovation, care and connection



Horst Bemmerl
Chair



Melanie Kiely
Chief Executive Officer

It is with pleasure that we present the 2025-2026 Annual Impact Report for the first time for both MSWA and the MS Society SA & NT. This financial year has been marked a year of innovation, care and connection, with some incredible milestones and 'firsts' for our neuro community.

Our work continues to be underpinned by our three strategic pillars: innovative coordinated care, expanding our community capability and engagement, and investing in research that translates to better outcomes.

Notably, **we stepped in to stabilise support and ensure continuity of care for people living with MS across South Australia and the Northern Territory** following the announcement of the MS Society SA & NT entering voluntary administration. We appreciate the support of everyone in Western Australia, including our staff, as we welcome new members to our community. Since the transition, we have already introduced new services by leveraging the expertise of our multidisciplinary team in WA. We look forward to expanding our positive impact further and working together.

On the Innovative Coordinated Care front, we have made strides in embracing innovation and gaining recognition for our high-quality care model. **Winning the Allied Health Professional Award at the WA Disability Support Awards, MSWA Speech Pathologist Bradley Pang** was commended for supporting Client Elena to communicate using voice banking and AI technology. After losing her voice to motor neurone disease, seeing Elena and her family's faces light up with joy when they heard her voice again is a poignant reminder of why we continue to push limits and find innovative ways to improve the lives of our neuro community.

This year we acknowledged the importance of **working collaboratively alongside GP's, neurologists and the WA Department of Health** to share knowledge, provide education and improve Client and carer supports.

We wouldn't be able to provide the care we do without working together. We look forward to expanding these partnerships across WA, SA and NT so our community can continue living independently in their own-home and, where that is not possible, minimise their time in hospitals through alternative transitional care models.

We're so proud to see our **MSWA Shenton Park High-Support Accommodation receive the finishing touches** and witness it turning into an incredible, state-of-the-art facility. The home will welcome 20 new residents by the end of 2026, including residents from the Quadriplegic Centre, MSWA Fern River and other members of the neuro community. We look forward to welcoming them to their new home.

With regards to Community Engagement and Capability pillar, **our peer support groups continue to grow from strength to strength**. In its inaugural year, the MSWA After Hours group, designed for working professionals living with a neurological condition, has grown to more than 100 members. This year, our Butler Art Club was also established and even exhibited their first collaborative piece at the Perth Art Without Limits exhibition. What was so special about this year's Art Without Limits exhibition is that we're seeing more art produced collectively, sharing the often-unseen challenges and triumphs of living with a neurological condition. We have also **rebranded MSWA Outreach to MSWA Connect.** The fresh new name is a truer reflection of what the service means for our community – a meaningful place to connect with those on a similar path.

This financial year, we also launched the **inaugural Life not Limits Grant in memory of Ros Harman** to provide our community with the opportunity to turn their ambitions into reality. After an extremely successful first round, we look forward to seeing the recipients' achievements and embrace their adventurous spirits just like the Ros we knew!

Excitingly, as we focus on Translating Research into Outcomes pillar, we have announced our **partnership with global tech startup accelerator Founders Factory.** The venture has enabled us to invest in five exciting startups – all endeavouring to address challenges faced by people living with neurological conditions. This world-first investment is focused on research translation and technological innovation to ultimately yield better health outcomes for the neurological community and has the potential to transform the quality of life of people in Australia and beyond. This commercial approach to funding will also be adopted to our other clinical research investments.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the **input and support of our incredible WA and SA & NT Client Committee and working groups** throughout this past year. Their co-design ensures every change is considered and made in the best interest of our community. Thank you.

Despite all these positive and incredible developments, we know that we will be facing significant changes with changing reforms to government funding. Year on year we have been facing funding pressures with an increasing gap between what is earned and spent, but the steep change this coming financial year will be profound.

We are often asked where the money we raise from our lotteries goes, and apart from research, innovation, purchasing new lottery homes and funding gaps in care, every financial year, **$10M goes to funding the shortfall between government funding and the true cost of service delivery.** This gap continues to grow each year. As a result, if we want to continue to provide supports in the future and protect our community, we need to make changes as others in the sector have done and are doing. We are already working through these with our Client Committee and will need to make some hard decisions. **We promise to work with our community, be transparent and collaborative so MSWA can be viable now and in the future.**

In closing, we want to say thank you – to our Clients, supporters, donors and everyone in our neuro community that puts their trust in us. Without you, we would not be here. We never forget that at the heart of everything we do is to empower people living with neurological conditions to live life to the fullest.



Horst Bemmerl
Chair



Melanie Kiely
Chief Executive Officer

WA Client Committee address

We are proud to share the progress, changes and significant achievements of our Client Committee over the financial year.

Having stepped into our roles as Co-Chairs of the Client Committee, we are excited to welcome new members – Rafael Ascencio, Robyn Pilcher, Stephen Ashburn and Sophie O'Donoghue. Each new member brings a unique perspective from their personal journey, as well as valuable insights into their experience with MSWA. Our Client Committee is made up of Clients and carers who access a range of funding types, come from different cultural backgrounds, and represent people at all stages of their diagnosis journey, from newly diagnosed to having lived with their neurological condition for decades. We look forward to listening to their thoughts and experiences and thank them in advance for taking the time to help us improve MSWA and the way we support our community.

We'd like to express our appreciation to Gavin Harper (inaugural Co-Chair), Jodi Russell and Maria Papadimitriou who have departed the Committee after dedicating a combined seven years of service. Thank you.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to enhancing people's experience with MSWA. The Committee ensures that Clients and community representatives are involved in the design and improvement of services, communication and initiatives across the spectrum of MSWA activity, to ensure genuine Client-centric outcomes.

The Committee oversees the co-design process, meeting quarterly to review projects, clarify scope, identify key stakeholders and provide updates on progress and outcomes. This is guided by the Client Committee's core principles including;

- **inclusive engagement,** seeking a diverse group that accurately represents the community for whom solutions are being designed;
- **genuine intent,** ensuring all feedback received is acknowledged without judgment to create a safe, collaborative environment where everyone feels heard;
- **a solution-focused mindset,** developing practical, effective, and sustainable solutions for all stakeholders with a forward-looking perspective; and
- **culture of co-design,** leadership to influence and lead a co-design ideology across the organisation.

Recently, we adopted a new way of working, establishing dedicated working groups to drive individual projects forward – each group comprising of nominated Committee members, relevant MSWA staff and Clients who have expressed particular interest. This approach ensures greater agility, efficiency and allows for broader input.

During this financial year, the Client Committee and working groups have been involved in:

- The transition of domestic assistance and meal preparation supports to external providers. This change provides better value to Clients and was necessary to increased viability of MSWA services. We recognised that this change would be difficult for some, and ensured that the change and communications were co-designed to reduce the impact where possible.
- Revising the MSWA Service Agreements for NDIS Clients. This was to ensure clarity and transparency, while also improving accessibility of the document itself for Clients.
- Revising the MSWA Rights and Responsibilities documentation, again with a focus on clarity, transparency and improved accessibility.

This new approach has empowered our Client Committee to make a real, lasting impact for people living with neurological conditions.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue sharing our voices, knowledge and lived experiences, ensuring that every person in our community is truly seen, heard and valued.



Ellen-May Eaton
WA Client Committee Co-Chair



Tony Millar
MSWA Chief Experience Officer
WA Client Committee Co-Chair



SA & NT Client Committee address

Since the transition, it has been a busy, exciting, and at times challenging period, with significant work underway to shape the next chapter of MS Society SA & NT. As part of this change, our Client Committee is continuing to grow and evolve.

To ensure the Committee can effectively advise on and advocate for the initiatives shaping the Society's future, in this financial year we have undertaken a recruitment process to welcome new community members to the Committee.

We look forward to working alongside both our new and continuing members to embed community insights and lived experience into every step of MS Society SA & NT's journey ahead.



Jessica Worsley
SA & NT Client Committee Chair

Our neuro community

Everyday we make meaningful connections and experiences across the state, nationally and globally to empower people with neurological conditions to lead fulfilling lives.

Fundraising and Events

- 2025 Bunbury Swim
- 2026 Step Up
- 2026 Albany Swim
- Art Without Limits exhibition Perth and Bunbury
- MS Readathon
- Client and Community Forum
- Neuro Impact Forum
- Community Engagement & Connect events

Client Committee and Working Groups

Communications

- Social media
- Newsletters
- Peer support groups
- Publications
- Websites

Lotteries and Raffles

Donors, Corporate Partners & Supporters

More than

3,700,000

meaningful connections and experiences made

Our Centres

- Ten Service Centres
- One respite facility
- *Six accommodation facilities
- Six Connect centres

Volunteers

Sector Partners

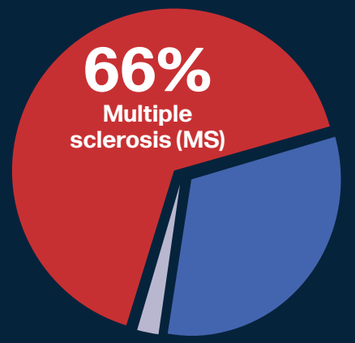
- MS Australia
- MS Plus
- MS Queensland
- Ability First

Research Projects

- Biomarkers in MS
- Founders Factory
- International Progressive MS Alliance
- NeuroHub
- PLATYPUS

*MSWA Shenton Park under construction

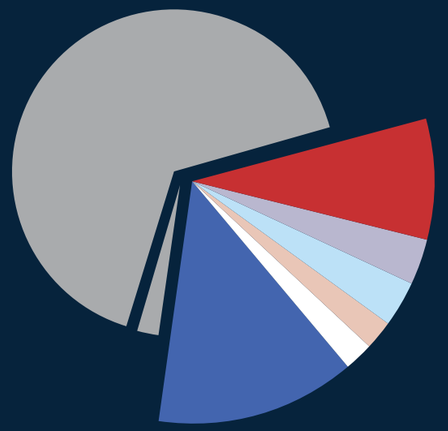
Our Clients



2% Support network*

32% Other neuro

**This represents carers or family members utilising services such as Counselling in relation to those with neurological conditions.*



Other neurological conditions

We support a range of other neurological conditions including:

Parkinson's disease	8%
Stroke	3%
Acquired brain injury	3%
Motor neurone disease	2%
Huntington's disease	2%
Other neurological conditions	13%

FY25/26 impact at a glance

$5.7M
contributed towards research

7 in 10
Clients agreed MSWA helps them focus on quality of life*

88%
Clients say MSWA treats them with dignity and respect*

4 in 5
West Aussies agreed MSWA promotes life not limits#

94%
West Aussies rate MSWA positively#

3 in 4
Clients feeling satisfied with MSWA*

73%
Clients believe MSWA understands their individual needs*

Over $62M
fundraised across lotteries, events, donations and bequests

50
millionaires made

**Average from MSWA's Client Experience Survey.*
#MSWA's Brand Tracking Survey.

Strategic levers for impact

MSWA's Five Year Strategy for 2025-2029 aims to empower people with neurological conditions to live their best lives. This year, we have continued to make significant strides in our key levers for impact to create the most impact and difference to our community.^

Community Capability and Engagement

Getting back to our roots as a community for, with and by people with neurological conditions.

Innovative Coordinated Care

Looking at new and improved codesigned models that drive even better outcomes for our Clients and community.

Translating Research into Outcomes

Truly using our investment in research to change people's live and their health outcomes for the better.

^Community refers to Clients, their carers, people with neurological conditions, and our supporters (including volunteers, corporate partners, donors, our team, and other stakeholders who provide support and empower people with neurological conditions to lead fulfilling lives).


The MSWA team visits the MS Society SA & NT.

A new start for the MS Society SA & NT

Following the announcement of the MS Society SA & NT entering voluntary administration in October 2025, MSWA, supported by MS Australia, stepped in to stabilise support and ensure continuity of care for people living with MS across South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Our experience, scale and commitment mean that people in these regions will continue to receive access to the support they need.

By joining forces, we build on our shared core purpose of empowering people living with neurological conditions to live their best lives, regardless of geographical location. A dedicated team in South Australia continues to operate locally, supported and managed by the team in Western Australia.

This reinforces MSWA's role at a national level, as we continue to advocate for better outcomes for our MS community across Australia.

"At MSWA, our first priority is always the people we serve. When we saw the risk of vital services being lost in SA and NT, we felt it was important to step in."

- Melanie Kiely, MSWA CEO.

In the long term, we are committed to developing a viable and financially sustainable model in SA and NT, applying the same approach we have successfully followed in WA. This means that funds raised in SA and the NT will support local services and activities in those regions.

For MS Society SA & NT Client, Adele, the situation was a poignant reminder of why specialised neurological support is critical. After diagnosis, Adele accessed neurological nursing and physiotherapy support as she navigated the uncertainty of life with MS.

"They understand. People look at me and think there's nothing wrong with me, but the team see deeper than that."

"I wouldn't know what to do without the MS Society. When they went into administration, it felt like being diagnosed all over again."

- Adele Donato, MS Society SA & NT Client.

Looking forward, we continue to face challenges which reflect broader pressures across the disability and social care sector, where sustainable long-term support remains critical. We are constantly working with our team across all regions to improve our service delivery model and continue to listen to our community on how best to support them.

We look forward to this next chapter, working as one, delivering greater outcomes for those living with neurological conditions in SA & NT and empowering them to live life, not limits.


MS Society SA & NT Client, Adele Donato.

Investment for Purpose

Investment for Purpose (IFP) is our financial commitment to bridging critical funding gaps and investing in initiatives that directly improve outcomes and quality of life of people living with neurological conditions. This proactive approach enables us to champion innovation and address gaps in continuity of care, setting us apart from other providers in the sector.

Life not Limits Grant in memory of Ros Harman

We recognise wellbeing extends beyond mental and physical health. Through our investment, the inaugural *Life not Limits Grant in memory of Ros Harman* was developed to support our Clients truly live their life, not limits. This Grant supports our community to turn their bold ambitions into reality, stepping in where money and finances may be a barrier.

The Grant was created in memory of former President of the MSWA Board and Client, Ros Harman, who left a legacy of courage and an unshakable belief that, "a diagnosis should never decide your destiny."

In 2026, we are proud to support eight recipients across a range of interests from arts to sports, community and academia.



Recipient Lauren Edwards leading her own line dancing class.

2026 Life not Limits Grant recipients and their projects:

Andrew Grero – Debuting his first solo art exhibition exploring life with Young Onset Parkinson's.

Chris Morgan – Keeping his purpose-built Ducati race-ready as he chases his goal of becoming the fastest person in Australia living with MS.

David Wayre – Reinstating his golf membership at The Links Kennedy Bay to support health and wellbeing.

Holly Taylor – Preparing to summit an 8,000m Himalayan peak after a decade of high-altitude climbing.

Michael Van Kampen – Competing at the National Blackball Championships in Queensland.

Rhonda Adamsam – Training as a certified art therapist to expand creative workshops for people with MS.

Samantha Zinner – Advancing her debut novel through a professional writing program.

Lauren Edwards – Launching an inclusive community line dance program to bring people of all ages and abilities together through movement and connection.

For recipient, Lauren, dance has always been a big part of her life. From the moment when she first stepped foot on the dance floor at five years old to experiencing her first MS symptoms in her late 20's. Creating her own line dance company was a longtime dream, and the backing of the Grant has given her the courage and financial support to make it a reality. Lauren's line dancing company officially opened in May 2026.

> *Through this Grant, I've found a good group of friends and also connected with others living with MS, which has provided me with a sense of belonging and community.*
>
> – Lauren Edwards, Grant Recipient.

Bridging gaps in service delivery

For people living with neurological conditions, receiving quality and consistent care is critical to their overall quality of life. With a growing gap between funding and the rising cost of service delivery, MSWA's IFP has enabled us to bridge critical funding gaps, where all other funding options have been exhausted. This includes supporting clinical teams across a range of allied health services to help those Clients who are most in need to secure the support they require.

In addition, IFP has supported new initiatives created in direct response to the unique needs of the neurological community. One such example is our Pre-Diagnosis Neurology Support service, which provides tailored information about neurological conditions and living well during the often-lengthy waiting period for a first neurology appointment.

World-first Neurological Care Accelerator

In a world-first, MSWA has undertaken a $1.75M joint venture with the global tech startup accelerator Founders Factory, to fund and scale breakthrough technologies designed to transform the lives of people living with neurological conditions.

This investment, made through IFP, supports innovations such as stroke prevention technology, robotics devices for independent mobility, brain computer interfaces for speech recovery, VR googles to combat fatigue management and movement intelligence wearables which may aid in an earlier diagnosis.

Ultimately, this program is designed to accelerate the development and adoption of cutting-edge technologies to reach the neurological community first here in Australia, and beyond.

> *This is a commitment that will ensure WA remains a nation leader in the field and support the wellbeing of all Western Australians.*
>
> – Hon. Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia.

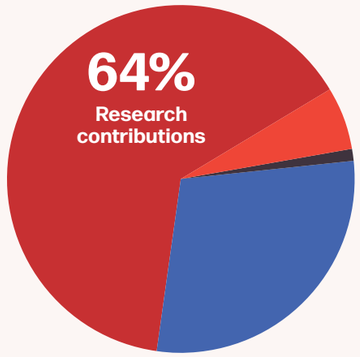


Grant recipient, David Wayne with CEO, Melanie Kiely.



The Hon. Roger Cook MLA visits MSWA Wilson Services Centre.

Investment for Purpose



6% Bridging gaps in service delivery

1% Community engagement initiatives*

29% Research Investments (Founders Factory)

** Life not Limits Grant in memory of Ros Harman and City of Albany water wheelchairs investment.*

Community Capability and Engagement

Our Community Capability and Engagement continues to go from strength to strength responding to the needs of the neurological community through co-designed initiatives that are established, led and driven by the community, for the community.

Expansion of community engagement programs

Just as no two neurological journeys are the same, social connection looks different to everyone.

The MSWA After Hours program, brings together like-minded working professionals navigating life with diagnosis in an easy-going setting, creating a community of peer support. The program has grown significantly in its inaugural year with regular meetups across the Perth metro and South West region.

Another peer-led initiative launched in financial year 2025-26 was the Butler Art Club led by MSWA Client, Rhonda Adamsam. The group invites members to come together weekly to explore various art mediums tailored to their creative interests.

Furthermore, our community service program, Outreach rebranded as Connect – a new name better aligned with its core purpose of connecting the neurological community with each other in a safe and inclusive space.

> *Being able to share experiences and talk to people who get it has made a huge difference.*
>
> *-Georgia Quick, MSWA Client and After Hours member.*



Members of After Hours meet up at Lawsons Flats.

Art Without Limits exhibition

MSWA's annual Art Without Limits exhibition returned bigger and better than ever on display at Central Park Tower, Perth and Stirling Street Arts Centre, Bunbury to celebrate World MS Day (30 May). Both exhibitions were open to the public, with the Perth exhibition running for two weeks and the Bunbury exhibition for four weeks.

Our community was invited to submit work exploring the theme of Navigating the Journey. Members of the Butler Art Club submitted a larger than life, interactive creation of Snakes and Ladders, using the classic childhood game as a metaphor for life with a neurological condition, 'up one day, down the next'.

Over 60 artworks submitted was a collection of mask paintings created by our Clients across all Connect centres, exploring the duality between what is seen on the outside versus what is carried quietly within as an individual living with a neurological condition moves through the world.



Mask creations by members of MSWA Connect groups.

> *I love the name Art Without Limits. It allows us to come together, share our stories and make the invisible visible.*
>
> *- Rhonda Adamsam, MSWA Client.*



Client Chris McEnroe with his artwork Skateboard Lamp.



The Butler Art Club visits Art Without Limits.

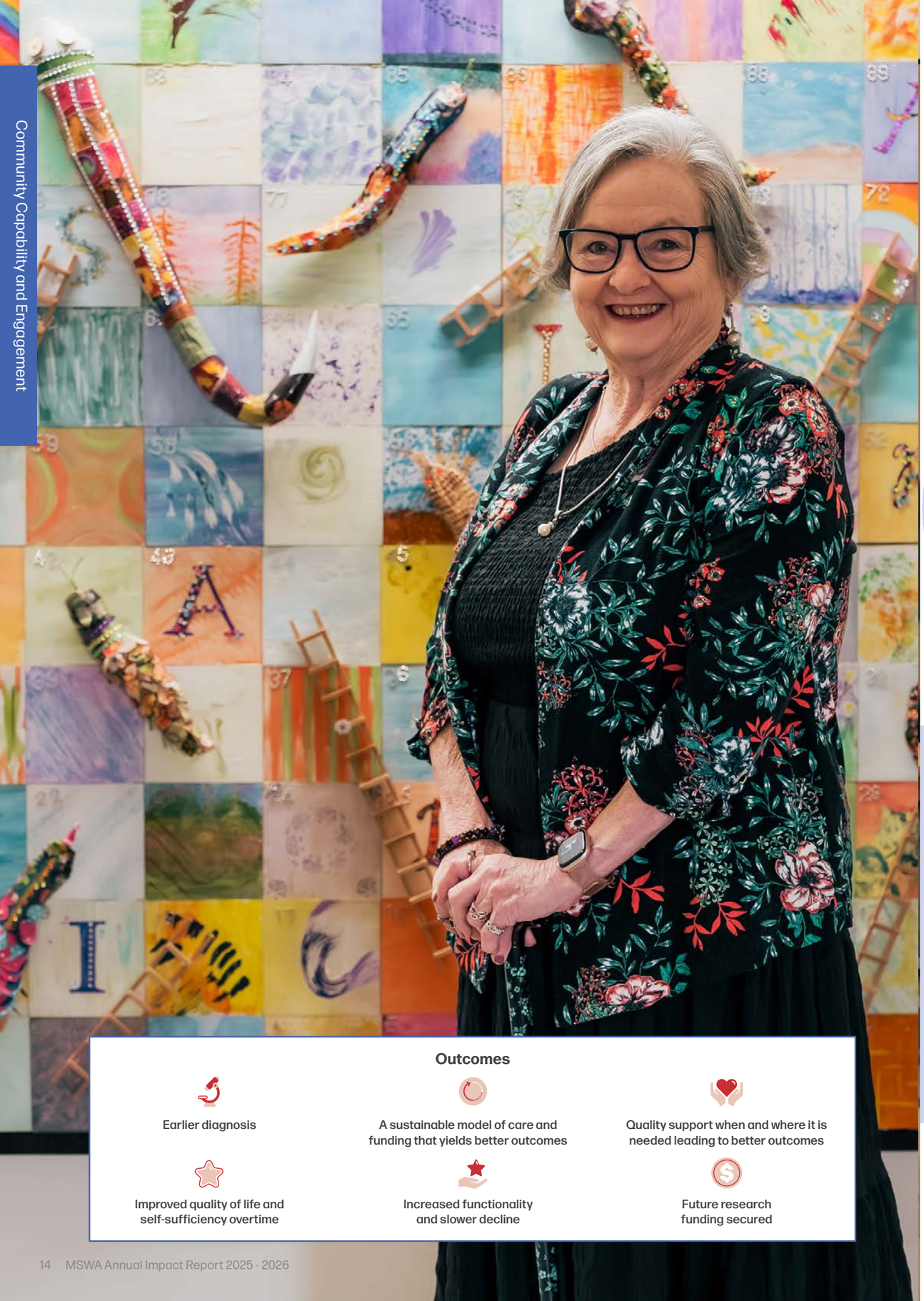
Step Up reaches new heights

Our iconic stair climbing fundraiser, Step Up, returned with over 1,000 participants challenging themselves to reach the top of Perth's tallest tower, Central Park. Thanks to the generosity of the West Australian community, we raised an astounding $244K for our cause.

This year's Step Up also became a launchpad for our partnership with the Perth 2027 World Police and Fire Games (WPFG), one of the world's largest multi-sport events. By aligning Step Up with WPFG, we're creating a unique opportunity to showcase the impact of MSWA and raise awareness of neurological conditions on an international stage.



Participants at the 2026 MSWA Step Up.



Outcomes

- Earlier diagnosis
- A sustainable model of care and funding that yields better outcomes
- Quality support when and where it is needed leading to better outcomes
- Improved quality of life and self-sufficiency overtime
- Increased functionality and slower decline
- Future research funding secured

Community Capability and Engagement

Outcomes	Initiatives
	WA Client Committee » The WA Client Committee expanded its reach, welcoming Ellen-May Eaton as the new co-Chair and bringing on new members. » The Committee consulted on: – Transition of domestic assistance and meal preparation supports to external providers. – Revising MSWA Service Agreement for NDIS Clients. – Revising MSWA Rights and Responsibilities documentation. **SA & NT Client Committee** » The SA & NT Client Committee started recruiting new members to broaden representation across the neurological community.
	Community Activations » Art Without Limits exhibition – Perth and Bunbury. » World MS Day Art Workshops. » Perth lights up red for World MS Day. » South Australia and Northern Territory lights up red for World MS Day. » Client Christmas Parties. » Client and Community Forum. » Carers Week. – Recognising the importance of carers in our neurological community, for the first time, MSWA organised Counselling and Wellbeing workshops for carers.
	Community Fundraising » 2025 MSWA Swim Bunbury. » 2026 MSWA Swim Albany. » 2026 MSWA Step Up. » Appeals and individual giving donation drives in WA, SA and NT. » Lotteries and raffles. – The 2025B MSWA Mega Home Lottery resulted in another successful sell out. – Revitalised the Cash for Cause Lottery and Life Changer Lottery in SA. » MS Readathon. » Community Fundraisers.
	Corporate Partnerships » Wildcats Open-Air Game supporting MSWA. – MSWA once again partnered with the Perth Wildcats and raised $7,200 towards our cause. » State Buildings partnership. » Retravision partnership. » Pharmacy 777 partnership. » Central Park partnership.
	Connect » MSWA Outreach is rebranded as MSWA Connect to embrace connection and reduce social isolation.
	Peer Support Groups » Established new community peer support initiatives – MSWA After Hours and MSWA Butler Art Club. » Supporting various peer support groups across WA, SA and NT to foster community connections. » Neuro Collective.

Community Capability and Engagement

Innovative Coordinated Care

Our Innovative Coordinated Care pillar aims to strengthen our care model by driving continuous improvement across the range of services we offers. Guided by Client insights and the complex needs of people with a neurological condition, we remain committed to providing responsive, person-centric care that delivers better outcomes for the neuro community.

Continuity of care in South Australia and the Northern Territory

Our priority was to ensure continuity of care for people living with MS across South Australia and the Northern Territory. This financial year, we have expanded our service and support offerings by leveraging the expertise of our multi-disciplinary team in Western Australia. A local team of nurses and clinicians are the foundation and through telehealth, we can now provide access to additional services that were previously unavailable, including speech pathology, counselling, wellbeing and dietetics.

Additionally, we have engaged with both the SA and NT state governments and relevant departments to discuss the challenges that are being seen across the disability and care sector, and to demonstrate how the MS Society SA & NT can help work with them, and other providers, to solve challenges together.

The future of the MS Society SA & NT is firmly focussed on developing a comprehensive and self-sustainable model, supported by fundraising initiatives and co-designed with assistance from the SA & NT Client Committee who represent the voice of the local community.

Solidifying service viability

Like many across the sector, we are experiencing the effects of rising service delivery costs due to inflation, fuel prices and workforce expenses, and government funding has not kept pace for years. This has created a growing gap between the true cost of providing services and available funding. This gap grows every year. To ensure MSWA remains viable, this financial year we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our service delivery model, costs and billing. As a result, we have had to implement many changes, however these changes are necessary to ensure **MSWA remains sustainable** both now and long into the future.

In late 2025, we announced the closure of **MSWA Treendale Gardens Respite**. While we took several measures to avoid the closure, external factors beyond our control contributed to this situation, including changing Client expectations of Respite services and declining individual funding. Furthermore, **MSWA Fern River High-Support Accommodation** announced it would cease to operate as the building is aging and no longer meets expectations of residents. Excitingly, **MSWA Shenton Park** is now nearing completion, and we look forward to welcoming our new residents, including many from MSWA Fern River, from September 2026.

Across the year we also reviewed our **Domestic Assistance and Meals services,** and as a result, we have been transitioning the service to alternative providers. This transition reflects the availability of high-quality external providers who can deliver these services more efficiently.

To assist with implementing these changes and ensure Clients, carers and family members are aware of what is happening, we have designed a **communication approach** embedding Client Committee feedback.

> *With the support of MSWA I was able to accept my life wasn't over, I found a new perspective. Now I focus on the things I can do, not the things I can't.*
>
> – Jo Penkin, MSWA Client.



> *My family and I have had brilliant support from MSWA, from the Counselling and Dietetics teams to the Employment Support Services team, who helped me to continue to work.*
>
> – Andrew Grero, MSWA Client.



MSWA Client, Nick Chapman.

Expansion of Nursing services

This financial year, our Nursing team, in collaboration with neurologists, have reviewed a person's journey holistically, from the moment they experience their first neurological symptoms to living life with an unpredictable condition.

This has reinforced gaps in care and in response MSWA have launched two services that support our neuro community at all stages of their journey, from before a formal diagnosis is in place to after-hours care – offering support when it is needed most.

Pre-Diagnosis Neurology Support

Currently in its pilot phase, the Pre-Diagnosis Neurology Support service is designed to help people experiencing neurological symptoms during the often-lengthy waiting period between receiving a neurology referral and obtaining a formal diagnosis.

These extended wait times create uncertainty, anxiety and distress, and critically does not address any early signs and symptoms. Our Nursing team is helping bridge this gap by providing support at this crucial stage and ensure people arrive at their first neurology appointment better informed, having been supported with any early symptoms and with a clear clinical history.

An early diagnosis can have an enormous impact on a person's overall quality of life, and shortening the time from first referral to diagnosis is an area MSWA will continue to strongly advocate for.

NeuroConnect Nursing

MSWA's NeuroConnect Nursing service launched after a significant fundraising effort in financial year 2025-26. The service offers access to experienced neurological nurses who can provide advice, assessments and support when it is needed most.

Our NeuroConnect Nursing service is available seven days a week from 7pm to 7am, and is in addition to our standard Nursing service. This initiative helps improves Clients' quality of life by providing after hours advice, support, and when needed, intervention, while also, reducing hospital admissions.



Outcomes

- Earlier diagnosis
- A sustainable model of care and funding that yields better outcomes
- Quality support when and where it is needed leading to better outcomes
- Improved quality of life and self-sufficiency overtime
- Increased functionality and slower decline
- Future research funding secured

Innovative Coordinated Care

Outcomes	Initiatives
	Continuity of care in South Australia and the Northern Territory » Maintained existed services and expanded service offerings while strengthening capabilities of local team. » Established the Neurological Leaders Forum bringing together organisations who support people living with neurological conditions across SA and the NT. The focus of this group is to improve coordination, share learnings and foster a collaborative environment for joint initiatives and engagement with the various state governments and Public Health Networks.
	Solidifying service viability » Closure of Treendale Gardens Respite and Fern River High-Support Accommodation facilities. » Reaching the final stages of construction on MSWA Shenton Park Accommodation. » Transition of Domestic Assistance service to alternative external providers ensuring cost-saving for Clients and helping their funding package go further. » Utilised alternative funding from Department of Community, enabling Clients and their carers to access care they may not otherwise have been able to receive.
	Expansion of Nursing services » The MSWA Nursing team expanded services to fill critical gaps in a Clients' journey through Pre-Diagnosis Neurology Support and NeuroConnect Nursing.
	Neuro Impact Forum » Delivered twice in the year, MSWA's Neuro Impact Forum brought Perth neurologists and GPs together to educate, inform, share insight and research news about MS, MND and neurological conditions more generally.
	Allied Health initiatives » MSWA Employment Support Services (ESS) team named key specialist provider of Inclusive Employment Australia. » Expanded our allied health and nursing services to 13-18 age group, enhancing support for young people. » Delivered group allied health services, providing Clients the opportunity to connect with others on the same journey such as Thermoregulatory Management Workshops, Assistive Technology Workshops and Wellbeing Groups. » Re-modelled MSWA Occupational Therapy services to align therapists and Clients to their local area for greater efficiency and to improve long term Client and therapist relationships.

Translating Research into Outcomes

Guided by our research principles, we have strategically invested in research projects that deliver real, tangible outcomes for people living with neurological conditions nationwide and around the world.

World-first Neurological Care Accelerator

In partnership with Founders Factory, the MSWA Neurological Care Accelerator is a world-first initiative with inaugural investments amounting to $1.75M in five global health tech startups. These breakthrough startups are now accelerating AI, robotics, wearables and neuro science based solutions to significantly improve independence, rehabilitation and quality of life for people living with multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions.

Founders Factory has applied their international acceleration model to support more than 450 startups globally. By combining this experience with our extensive clinical network and community reach, the program has made Western Australia a focal point for health technologies with global relevance and scale.



MSWA and Clients with tech startup, upLYFT.

> *Programs like this allow people with neurological conditions right here in WA to have first access to world-leading technology.*
>
> *- Melanie Kiely, MSWA CEO.*

MSWA Neurological Care Accelerator cohort:

- **upLYFT**
  London, United Kingdom
  Integrates sensors into everyday textiles to track user movement and health data invisibly, supporting rehabilitation and performance monitoring.
- **NeuroSonic**
  San Francisco, United States
  Rapidly and non-invasively detects carotid artery stenosis using blood flow characteristics, enabling early stroke risk detection and timely intervention.
- **Fluent**
  Melbourne, Australia
  Developing a subscalp brain-computer interface that decodes speech signals for patients with severe communication impairments.
- **Clarity Technologies**
  San Francisco, United States
  Creates wearable devices delivering targeted sensory stimulation therapy to reduce fatigue and improve cognitive function in neurodegenerative diseases.
- **reviMo**
  Boston, United States
  Designs portable robotic devices enabling mobility-impaired individuals to safely transfer themselves from bed to perform daily self-care tasks independently.



MSWA CEO, Melanie at the Perth Residential Week.

Perth Residency Week

In May 2026, Founders Factory cohorts and key program leaders came together in Western Australia for the Perth Residency Week. It provided a valuable opportunity to embed the Founders into our extensive clinical network and receive direct feedback from our neuro community. Importantly, it ensures WA patients receive early access to groundbreaking care while connecting international health tech innovators with a world-class research and clinical environment.



Fluent Co-Founder and CEO, Tim Mahoney.



ReviMo demonstration at the Perth Residential Week.



upLYFT's wearable technology.



Clarity Technologies headset.



NeuroSonic device.

Translating Research into Outcomes

MSWA funded research projects

In 2025, ten research projects received three years of funding via MSWA and MS Australia's co-funded research grant which have undergone MS Australia's peer-reviewed process and are aligned to MSWA's research principles. Here are the initial findings and progress from this financial year:

- One step closer to targeted tolerogenic dendritic cell therapy to treat people with MS and help reduce MS-related inflammation (Dr Vivien Li, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health).
- Identified BIN1 as a potential regulator of tau pathology, uncovering a promising new therapeutic target for MS-related neurodegeneration (Dr Kai-Hei Tse, University of Technology Sydney).
- Recruited and scanned MRIs of people with MS and healthy controls to start building an AI-driven model that predicts individual disease progression to assist with clinical decision making (Dr Oun Al-iedani, University of Melbourne).
- Launched a national study and recruited 355 women to create Australia's first large-scale dataset on menopause and MS (Professor Susan Davis, Monash University).
- Generated evidence to support MERTK protein as a potential biomarker for predicting treatment response (Professor Trevor Kilpatric, University of Melbourne, The Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health).
- Identified critical gaps that informed the development of a new evidence-based training program for clinicians working with people with MS (Associate Professor Yvonne Learmonth, University of New South Wales).
- Generated high-quality immune profiling data to confirm the feasibility of studying rare, immature neutrophils in MS (Dr Stephanie Trend, Perron Institute of Neurological and Translational Science, Telethon Kids Institute).
- Developed a new risk score that distinguished patients with rapid versus stable disability progression in relapsing MS (Dr Valery Fuh-Ngwa, Menzies Institute for Medical Research).
- Refined thresholds for cognitive decline and demonstrated that up to 25% of older persons with MS experience worsening cognition beyond normal ageing (Dr Daniel Merlo, Monash University).



PLATYPUS

PLATYPUS is a groundbreaking clinical trial for Australians with progressive multiple sclerosis (MS). It is the first multi-arm, multi-stage trial in the country that tests multiple existing medications simultaneously, which can produce results, faster than traditional clinical trial method. PLATYPUS is an extension of the UK-based trial Octopus which has shown encouraging early signs for a potential treatment for progressive MS. This financial year, the trial continues to recruit participants and secure appropriate sites for clinical trials to take place nationally.

MS Australia National Grants

We continue our commitment into MS Australia's National Grants investing $2M to support research projects in neurobiology, genetics, epidemiology, immunology, social and applied research.

Find out more

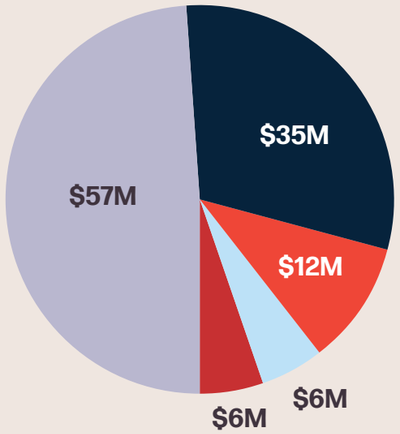
Our research principles

- **Encourage co-design and participation by the MS and other neurological conditions community**
- **Foster collaboration amongst researchers, industries, organisations and Government for short and long term continuity and coordination**
- **Strive for equitable outcomes for all Australians**
- **Translation of findings to the community and into practice for better health outcomes**
- **Demonstrated benefit for the community and sector**
- **Building capacity in Western Australia**
- **Greatest potential promise to make meaningful impact**
- **Transparency and excellence in research and translation**
- **Innovative and creative models of research to yield better outcomes**

Where does the money go?

Our finances

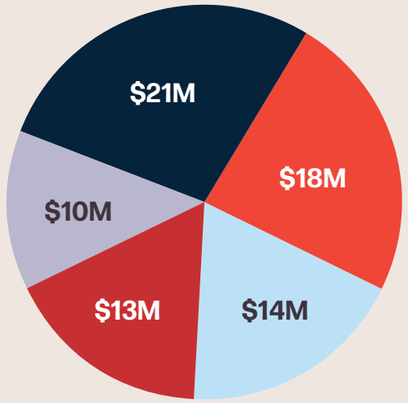
Through the generosity of the Australian community and government funding, we continue to provide coordinated care for neurological conditions, strengthened our position as a provider of high-quality specialised neurological care and invested in life-changing research.



- Client services and support
- Community fundraising activities*
- Corporate, operational support and quality and safeguarding
- Investment for Purpose**
- Surplus

**Includes lottery prizes, marketing and fundraising costs.*
*** Includes research expenditure and investments.*

Investment of capital for the future



- Emergency reserve
- Future lottery prize stock
- High Support accommodation^
- Research reserve
- Accommodation / Services Centre replacement

^MSWA Golden Bay and other development opportunities.



MSWA Counsellor Michaela and Client, Jo.



MSWA Mega Home Lottery 26A Shenton Park home.

Looking ahead

By continuously listening to valuable Client feedback and addressing the challenges within the sector, we remain focused on improving service delivery and keeping Clients at the centre of everything we do. This approach enables the team to effectively implement the key strategic levers for impact, now and into the future.

Investment for Purpose

After an astoundingly competitive round in its inaugural year, we're proud to continue the **Life not Limits Grant in memory of Ros Harman.** The Grant supports our neuro community to pursue their goals and is all made possible through MSWA's Investment for Purpose (IFP). In the financial year 26-27, the Grant will expand to our neuro community in South Australia and Northern Territory, and we can't wait to help more Clients achieve their dreams.

With the growing gap of funding and rising cost of service delivery, we're taking a **proactive approach to improving our processes, reporting and tracking** of MSWA's IFP to bridge critical funding gaps and ensures the most vulnerable members of our neuro community continue to be supported.

MSWA
The Life not Limits Grant
In Memory of Ros Harman



2025 Grant recipients.

Community Capability and Engagement

We're working to further strengthen our broader network through the release of our new digital community hub, **Synapse** which will act as a forum for the wider neuro community to support one another digitally – removing the limits of distance.

Our ever-expanding peer support programs will welcome two new initiatives, **Phone Buddies** – a program where volunteers with lived experience provide support via phone calls, and **Newly Diagnosed Information Sessions** – a workshop for those who are at the early stages of their journey.

There is ongoing work to rebuild trust within our South Australian and Territorian community and all those who have supported the Society in the past. We know there is still a lot to do in this space, we are here to listen and learn from the local community and respond in the way they need most. With this mind, we're undertaking a market research project and will look to **reestablish consistent communications** with our neuro community. We're also excited to announce the return of South Australia fundraising event, **MS Mighty Swim** in February 2027.

Synapse

MS Mighty Swim

Innovative Coordinated Care

As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering viable, high-quality community services, we're **reshaping our Community Service Delivery** (formerly Neighbourhood Model). Our focus is on building a more connected model of support, where the workers are part of a small, local team with stronger local knowledge, allowing Clients to receive greater continuity of care.

Excitingly, **MSWA Shenton Park is set for completion** in financial year 2026-27. The new state of-the-art facility is focused on delivering exceptional care in a purpose built environment to support greater independence. MSWA gratefully acknowledges the Western Australian State Government's financial contribution to this project.

The introduction of Support at Home reforms by the Federal Government created additional administrative burden across the sector. Following a lengthy deliberation process and through co-design with WA Client Committee, MSWA has chosen to focus on our core strength – the delivery of neurological care – and will **explore new ways to simplify the administrative functions.**

With the introduction of our multidisciplinary telehealth model in South Australia and the Northern Territory, we will begin to **gradually expand our services to people living with other neurological conditions**, allowing us to diversify and broaden our offering to the neuro community. Our team will also look to reestablish relationships with the South Australian and Northern Territory government, as well as leading efforts through the Neurological Leaders Forum.

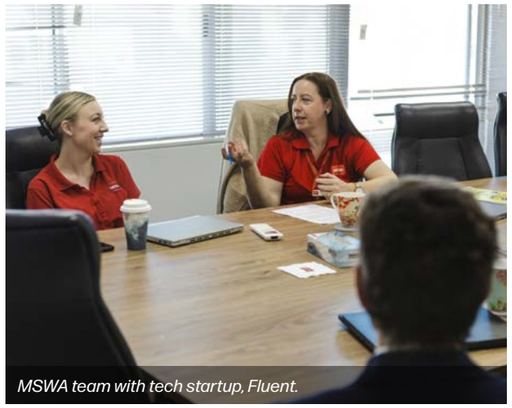


Residents tour MSWA Shenton Park for the first time.

Translating Research into Outcomes

In the financial year 2026-27, **our partnership with tech accelerator Founders Factory** will continue as we support the development of innovative solutions. Participating start-ups will work closely with the skilled MSWA team to refine and advance their technologies, with several expected to progress to trial deployments hosted at selected MSWA Services Centres – delivering real-life impact to our neuro community.

We also look forward to seeing the progress of our first cohort of **research projects funded by MSWA and allocated by MS Australia** across a range of focus areas including investigating causes and prevention, better treatments and finding a cure via repair and regeneration.



MSWA team with tech startup, Fluent.



MSWA Client Miles Packard and NeuroSonic CEO, Mike Ryan.

With thanks

We proudly acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of our supporters, donors, partners and the broader Australian community. We also honour the foresight and enduring legacy of those who have chosen to remember us in their Wills.

Your support strengthens every aspect of our mission, from fostering meaningful community connections and providing continuity of care to advancing innovative research. Through your generosity, people living with neurological conditions, along with their families and support networks, can access the care, connection and hope they need to thrive.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Premier Partner

STATE BUILDING

Major Partner

retraVision

Community Partners

CENTRAL PARK

CITY OF PERTH City of Light

OPTUS STADIUM

JUNIPER MARGARET RIVER

Southern Ports

ROOFWEST ROOF RESTORATIONS

City of Albany

Pharmacy 777

Government Partners

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Government of **Western Australia** Department of **Communities**

Insurance Commission of Western Australia Since 1926

Generous Donors

Annie and Doug
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Como The Treasury
Jim Piercy
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Michael Tichbon OAM
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Rotary Club of Palm Beach WA
The late Carol Mary Cooper
The late Donald Clarence Vanstone
Gilbert Leopold North Charitable Trust
Harry Frederick Carter Perpetual Charitable Trust
Estate of the late John W Sutton Charitable Trust
Kitching Charitable Trust
The late Patricia Ann Gardner
The late Patricia Ann McDonagh
The late Roslyn Shirley Harman

MSWA on the national stage

This year, the dedication of the MSWA team was recognised at both the state and national levels, reflecting the quality and commitment teams across the organisation have to our Clients and broader community.

Bradley Pang – Speech Pathologist

Winner, Allied Health Professionals Award

2026 WA Disability Support Awards

Accepting the award on Bradley's behalf was MSWA Client, Elena and members of the team. In an unforgettable evening, Elena gave a deeply moving speech – her words brought to life through an AI recreated-voice. This tool was developed by Bradley through a short video footage recorded more than 10 years ago, allowing Elena to communicate through her eye-gaze machine using her own voice. Bradley was commended for his delivery of high quality, evidence-based services to preserve Elena's voice – both literally and figuratively – ensuring her autonomy and inclusion remain central.

His work demonstrates how emerging technologies can be responsibly integrated into disability services to enhance identity and dignity while offering a scalable model to benefit others experiencing progressive communication loss.



Client, Elena and the MSWA team accepting the award on behalf of Bradley Pang.

Elena said of Bradley's support, "What makes Bradley so special is he doesn't just do his job, he makes you feel comfortable, understood and genuinely heard. Our sessions never felt like typical appointments, they felt like two friends catching up."

> *I'm so proud of him and this award couldn't have gone to a more deserving person.*
>
> *-Elena Pommet, MSWA Client.*

Employment Support Services team

Finalists, Excellence in Supporting Employment Outcomes

2026 WA Disability Support Awards

Our Employment Support Services (ESS) team were finalists in the category of Excellence in Supporting Employment Outcomes. The team was joined by MSWA Client, Chris and were celebrated for their work in helping him maintain meaningful employment in a role he deeply values.


The MSWA team with Client, Chris and the Hon Minister Beazley MLA.

The ESS team were able to present a case for Chris to trial the Exopulse Mollii Suit, or what he has fondly named his 'super suit.' After a complex funding process, Chris now uses his own Mollii Suit, alongside ongoing supports – reducing reliance on mobility aids, enhancing independence and enabling him to continue thriving at work.

As Chris says, "It's not a cure, but it's pretty close."



The MSWA Marketing team with Client and Mural Artist, Hank Gidney.



(L-R) Montana Moran, Belinda Sherry and Julia Tran at the Third Sector Awards.

Brand and Campaign Marketing team

Winner, Marketing Excellence Award

2025 Third Sector Awards

The MSWA Brand and Campaign Marketing team were awarded the Marketing Excellence Award for the Life not limits campaign at the national Third Sector Awards.

The 'Life not limits' campaign was the result of a deeply strategic and collaborative planning process that set out to transform MSWA's brand identity, unify our teams and reconnect all stakeholders to a shared purpose. Through the campaign, the team created an authentic and empowering platform that stretched seamlessly across both our service delivery and fundraising efforts. The 'Life not limits' campaign is now the foundation of how we operate, communicate, collaborate and empower our Clients to live their best.

The campaign's creative strategy was grounded in real Client stories. Our Clients shared their journeys in raw, emotive and empowering ways – reflecting our core belief that neurological conditions do not define a person's life.

"To Hank, Holly, Susan and Chris who featured in the campaign, and everyone of our Clients – thank you for letting us tell your stories. You're the reason behind everything we do." Belinda Sherry, MSWA Brand and Campaign Marketing Manager.


Speech Pathologist, Bradley Pang and Client, Elena Pommet.

Our team

Every year, we recognise members of the team that embody MSWA's purpose, vision and values. Recipients are nominated by both peers and Clients for the significant difference they make to our neuro community and beyond.



The Chair's Impact Award

Melissa Coombs

Community Engagement Lead

The Chair's Impact Award recognises an MSWA team member who consistently goes above and beyond to make a difference to our team, Clients and the community.

As the 2025 recipient, Melissa was commended for her proactive leadership and strategic insight in ensuring the viability and equitability of our Connect service. Melissa consistently puts Clients' needs top of mind by optimising processes and removing barriers to care, helping Clients receive the best possible outcome.

> *I have a lot of gratitude and appreciation for Melissa. She treats our Clients like family and is an excellent example of a person that lives MSWA's values.*
>
> *- Horst Bemmerl, MSWA Chair.*

The Chair's Impact Award: Commendation

Aksheet Raikundalia

Head of Finance Business Partnering

The Chair's Impact Award: Commendation goes to Aksheet in recognition of his outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication in guiding his team through complex, organisation-wide financial projects that have made a meaningful impact across MSWA.

> *Aksheet consistently gone above and beyond for the benefit of MSWA.*
>
> *- Horst Bemmerl, MSWA Chair.*

Client Nominated Awards

Going the Extra Mile

Tshering Lhamo

Community Support Worker

"I have always been very impressed with Tshering's performance as she is always on time, delivers consistent high-quality work and very obliging of my request," MSWA Client

Living Our Values

Kim Deegan

Senior Physiotherapy Assistant

"Kim is attentive, supportive, caring and her skills as a therapist are excellent," MSWA Client

Client Champion

Bradley Pang, Rebekah Smith and Charlotte Huynh
Speech Pathologists

Going the Extra Mile

Jennifer Brinsmead
Area Planner

Innovation & Improvement

Debra Packer
General Manager – Brand, Experience and Community

Living Our Values

Nita van Lith-Telford
Community Support Worker

Team Spirit

MS Society SA & NT Project Team

Trailblazer

Ged Reilly
Community Engagement Manager

Unsung Hero

Jen Doble
Payroll Manager

Steve Newey
Core Services Manager



The Living Our Values Award recipient, Kim Deegan.

Our values

Difference

We value difference and everyone's perspective.

Accountability

We do what we say we will do, and we do it in the right way.

Respect

We care and we treat everyone with respect.

Listen

We listen and seek to understand.



The Going the Extra Mile Award recipient, Tshering Lhamo.

Board of Directors



Horst Bemmerl
Chair



Liam Roche
Deputy Chair



Professor Bill Carroll AM*



Clare Van Drunen



John Patmore



Jason Brotherson



Kate Gatti



Lorraine Driscoll



Michael Fay*

*Michael Fay departed August 2025 and Professor Bill Carroll AM departed December 2025.

Executive team



Melanie Kiely
Chief Executive Officer



Alison Cox
Chief Quality Safeguarding & Risk Officer



Heather Wolyniec
Chief Transformation Officer



Sian Sullivan
Chief Financial Officer



Simon Jennings
Chief Client Service Delivery Officer



Tony Millar
Chief Experience Officer

WA Client Committee

Ellen-May Eaton (Co-Chair), Allen Roberts, Angelica Franz, Raf Ascencio, Robyn Pilcher, Sophie O'Donoghue, Stephen Ashburn, Terry Compton, Wildaliz DeJesus Arocho.

SA & NT Client Committee

Jessica Worsley (Chair), Elisabeth Fagan-Schmidt, Emma Archer, Irma Ferrera, Joanne Blesing, John Hannan, Rebecca Manuel and Trish Wescombe.



MSWA Life not limits

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Life not Limits Grant recipient, Andrew Grero.