

MSWA and Founders Factory bring world-first neuro health accelerator to WA

Five breakthrough startups join a partnership designed to accelerate disability and neuro-health innovation, improving independence, rehabilitation and quality of life for people living with neurological conditions.

- **World first in WA:** Perth launches the world's only neurological care startup accelerator, embedding international founders in its health system.
- **Breakthrough cohort:** Innovations include stroke prevention technology, portable robotic devices for independent mobility, brain-computer interfaces for speech recovery, and fatigue management wearables.
- **Ecosystem potential:** Designed to strengthen WA's position as a leading hub for mission-driven health tech.

Perth, AUS, 25 May, 2026: The MSWA Neurological Care Accelerator, a world-first initiative launched by Premier Roger Cook in November 2025, has made its inaugural investments amounting to \$1.75 million in five global health tech startups.

These breakthrough companies are now accelerating AI, robotics, wearables and neuroscience-based solutions to significantly improve independence, rehabilitation and quality of life for people living with multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions.

Founders Factory's international acceleration model, which has supported more than 450 startups globally and attracted more than \$200 million in follow-on funding through its WA programs since 2024, will now be applied to the neurological care sector.

By combining this experience with MSWA's extensive clinical network and community reach, the program is set to make WA a focal point for health technologies with global relevance.

This week, the accelerator's inaugural cohort of five health tech startups is participating in Perth Residency Week, an intensive program designed to embed the founders within WA's health innovation ecosystem, facilitating direct engagement with investors, government, and key stakeholders.

The establishment of the accelerator comes against a backdrop of an alarming global rise in neurological conditions.

Multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease are among the fastest-growing neurological conditions worldwide, with Parkinson's prevalence projected to more than double by 2050 and MS rising across every continent.

Stroke, one of Australia's top five killers, is also escalating. In 2024, it claimed more than 9,100 lives according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Causes of Death report.

On average, someone experiences a stroke every 11 minutes in Australia. The Stroke Foundation estimates more than 80 per cent of strokes are preventable by managing key risk factors such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, irregular heartbeat and diabetes.

Without more effective pathways for prevention and intervention, the number of strokes is expected to reach 72,000 per year in Australia by 2050.

One of the cohort companies, [NeuroSonic](#), co-founded by Irish biomedical engineers Mike Ryan and Mathew Campbell, has developed a rapid, non-invasive stroke risk assessment technology, which analyses blood flow in the carotid arteries to flag patients before symptoms appear. This can help clinicians intervene early before severe outcomes occur.

Mike Ryan, CEO of NeuroSonic, said: *“Our goal is simple – preventing strokes through timely detection. Partnering with MSWA and Founders Factory has directly embedded us into the Australian health ecosystem, connecting us to clinicians, patients, policymakers and future customers. We are thrilled to have such strong supporters working tirelessly alongside us to help bring our technology out of development – and to patients across Australia.”*

For **MSWA Client Miles Packard**, the relevance is personal after suffering a severe stroke in 2016. Miles said: *“After my stroke, I spent four months in Fiona Stanley Hospital and six months in a wheelchair. If earlier detection like NeuroSonic’s had been available, my rehab might have been a completely different story. Knowing others could avoid going through what I did, that means everything.”*

Melanie Kiely, MSWA CEO said: *“This accelerator is about bringing exceptional health innovators into direct partnership with WA’s neurological community. Founders Factory’s global model enables entrepreneurs and clinicians to work side-by-side, translating complex ideas into practical solutions that can be adopted sooner, and importantly, in ways that respond to real Client needs. For people with high risk of having a stroke, it can mean earlier intervention, better recovery outcomes and the ability to return to more of the life they value, for Miles, that’s being able to go for walks, spend time with family and friends and get back to the gym. It can also mean less time in hospital, freeing up public health resources for other patients, and potentially saving taxpayers millions in long-term care costs. Ultimately, programs like this allow people with neurological conditions right here in WA to have first access to world-leading technology.*

The Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Science, Innovation and Medical Research, said: *“The Cook Government is proud to support the partnership between MSWA and Founders Factory, which is helping translate world-class medical research into real outcomes for people living with neurological conditions. By supporting early-stage companies to test and scale their ideas, we are helping bring new technologies into real-world settings for patients sooner.”*

Rohan Silva, Chair of Western Australia, Founders Factory, said: *“Neurological care is one of the biggest global health challenges. Yet, it is one of the least currently served by technology or investors, despite entrepreneurial talent coming up with great innovations – as evident by those selected for this program. By mobilising founders around this space, we’re creating a launchpad for breakthrough impact.”*

The full cohort is detailed in the Notes to Editors below.

By embedding founders into MSWA's clinical network, the program ensures WA patients receive early access to groundbreaking care while connecting international health tech innovators with a world-class research and clinical environment.

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Images are available [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

About Perth Residency Week

Perth Residency Week (25-29 May 2026) is the annual residential program where all three Founders Factory cohorts and key program leaders come together in person in Western Australia. Founders meet local customers, pitch to investors, attend industry panels and masterclasses, and connect with state ministers and government and corporate partners.

MSWA Neurological Care Accelerator: Full Cohort 1

- **upLYFT** (UK) integrates sensors into everyday textiles to track user movement and health data invisibly, supporting rehabilitation and performance monitoring
- **NeuroSonic** (US) rapidly and non-invasively detects carotid artery stenosis using blood-flow characteristics, enabling early stroke risk detection and timely intervention.
- **Fluent** (Australia) is developing a subscalp brain-computer interface that decodes speech signals for patients with severe communication impairments
- **Clarity Technologies** (US/France) creates wearable devices delivering targeted sensory stimulation therapy to reduce fatigue and improve cognitive function in neurodegenerative diseases
- **ReVimo** (US) designs portable robotic devices enabling mobility-impaired individuals to safely transfer themselves from bed to perform daily self-care tasks independently

About Founders Factory

Founders Factory builds and funds startups together with exceptional entrepreneurs and the world's leading companies. Created by IPO-exited founders and operating globally from London, New York, Berlin, Milan, Perth and Singapore, Founders Factory invests in the world's

most promising pre-Series A founders and helps them commercialise through securing first pilots and supercharging go-to-market strategies. With a focus on health, deeptech, industrial transformation and fintech, Founders Factory has supported startups to scale and disrupt markets, enabling over 500 enterprise pilots for its portfolio. Since 2015, Founders Factory has built and funded 450+ technology companies.

About MSWA

MSWA provides vital support and services to people living with neurological conditions in Western Australia, striving to help Clients and the wider neuro community to live their best lives. This includes supporting people living with multiple sclerosis (MS), stroke, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, motor neurone disease (MND), acquired brain injury and other conditions afflicting the brain and central nervous system.

In 2025, MSWA stepped in to support MS Society South Australia and Northern Territory and now operates as a singular organisation, strengthening support for people living with neurological conditions across Australia.

With a team of almost 1000 staff who all work passionately to provide the best possible care to people, MSWA supports Clients across the metro area and regional centres of Western Australia, as well as South Australia and the Northern Territory.

MSWA's team of experienced nursing and allied health professionals provide information and a range of supports from the time of diagnosis. All MSWA programs are delivered in accordance with both the Disability Service Standards and our own service standards.

MSWA is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. The money raised through its fundraising efforts, government grants and other income generating programs goes directly to providing supports and services to people living with neurological conditions.

In addition to its direct care services, MSWA also provides funding for vital research into neurological conditions having committed more than \$50 million to research to date.