

MSWA steps up to maintain vital support across South Australia, Northern Territory

MSWA has announced it will step in to maintain vital support services for hundreds of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) in South Australia and the Northern Territory, following the voluntary administration of MS Society SA & NT in September.

With the support of MS Australia, MSWA is currently working with the administrator to plan the transition to ensure the hundreds of Clients with MS in SA and NT continue to have access to services, information and support. It is estimated there are 3,000 people across the region who have MS.

As part of the arrangement, MSWA will retain staff in allied health and client service delivery to provide continuity of care as well as honour the prizes in the recent MS Life Changer Lottery and MS Cash for a Cause Lottery, ensuring no loss for ticket holders.

MSWA Chief Executive Officer Melanie Kiely said the organisation's priority was to ensure support for those affected by MS in SA and NT.

"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 essential to step in," Ms Kiely said.

"Our experience, scale and commitment mean that people will continue to receive the support they need. This is about putting the MS community and Clients first, and playing our part nationally to ensure people have access to support as they navigate their journey with MS."

MS Society SA & NT is one of more than 350 health care and social assistance organisations across Australia that have entered administration in the past nine months.

Ms Kiely said the challenges faced by the MS Society SA & NT were unfortunately being replicated across the care sector, with increased funding and compliance pressure placed on providers.

"As costs increase and funding decreases, we are seeing a growing number of organisations entering insolvency. This is particularly sad when it is charities, as they often provide services that the private sector does not," Ms Kiely said.

"We recognise there is a broader challenge faced by the State and Federal Governments and sustainability is key, but the disability and social care sector needs sustainable funding. Organisations providing higher-end specialist care need to be appropriately funded for their compliance and care costs," she said.

"Without it, we risk losing more good organisations and creating uncertainty for the people who need us most. We look forward to working with the State and Federal Governments on a longer term, sustainable plan."

MSWA Chief Experience Officer Tony Millar emphasised the importance of fundraising initiatives in supporting MS services.

“Continuity of care is everything for people living with MS. That’s why we’re not only doing what we can to retain staff who know and understand their Clients, but we’re also honouring every ticket purchased in the MS Society SA & NT lotteries,” Mr Millar said.

“These fundraising initiatives are more than just a chance to win prizes. They are a lifeline that supports critical services and makes a real, life-changing difference for people living with MS. We are deeply grateful to the community for their ongoing support,” he said.

“Funds raised in WA will continue to support WA Clients and the wider neurological community, while in SA and NT all future fundraising will be directed back into local services.”

MS Australia Chief Executive Officer Rohan Greenland said MS Australia applauded MSWA and supported its commitment to ensuring people living with MS continue to receive the services they need.

“The MS community is strongest when we work together and we know how important continuity of care is for people navigating the challenges of neurological conditions,” Mr Greenland said.

“MS Australia will continue to work alongside MSWA, governments and communities to ensure that support remains strong and sustainable into the future.”

With almost 1,000 staff in Western Australia who work to provide the best possible care to people living with neurological conditions across WA, MSWA is the largest of Australia’s independent but associated MS societies, making it well-placed to ensure support remains strong at home and beyond.

MSWA’s focus will continue to put those living with a neurological condition first and creating a sustainable future for MS support in every community it serves.

- ENDS -

Images are available [here](#).

Media contact:

Belinda Sherry
MSWA
M: 0437 970 081
E: belinda.sherry@mswa.org.au

Elli Swanson
Purple
M: 0421 791 894
E: eswanson@purple.au

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 neuron disease (MND), acquired brain injury and other conditions afflicting the brain and central nervous system.

MSWA has a team of almost 1000 staff who all work passionately to provide the best possible care to people right across the metro area and regional centres of Western Australia.



Life not limits

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

Our 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.

In addition to our direct care services, we also provide funding for vital research into neurological conditions.