

MSWA

Life not limits

Nerve Centre

MAKURU | WINTER 2025

Your supporter news update



Welcome to the Makuru Edition of Nerve Centre!

As the winter days set in, the Noongar Season Makuru is traditionally the wettest time of the year. It's the perfect time to grab a warm cuppa and settle in with the latest edition of Nerve Centre.

It's been a busy few months at MSWA and as always, we want to thank you for your incredible support in making it all possible. The MSWA Mega Home Lottery wrapped up in May - completely selling out, raising over \$22M for MSWA! We were fortunate to have a few special MSWA Clients help deliver the exciting news to our major prize winners. You can read more about our star talent below.

We've also wrapped up our celebrations for this year's World MS Day. To celebrate, we invited our neuro community to submit a piece of art to be displayed at our annual Art Without Limits exhibition held at Central Park Tower in Perth and Bunbury's Stirling Street Art Centre.

And we're launching our Neuro Nurse Program, giving Clients 24/7 access to specialist nursing care - a huge step forward in continuity of care.

Hear more from our Community Engagement team about our Art Without Limits exhibition and how your support made it all possible.



Latest news



World MS Day celebrations

On May 30, we united to celebrate World MS Day. The global theme, My MS Diagnosis, provided a powerful opportunity to start conversations and break down barriers among Clients, staff, and the broader WA community. Together, we helped highlight the triumphs and challenges of people living with neurological conditions through our Art Without Limits exhibition.

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Clients making the call!

The MSWA Mega Home Lottery wrapped up in May, following a major campaign featuring some mega major prizes. Assisting CEO Melanie Kiely, Stephen helped call the winner of the \$1.4M Applecross apartment, while Nick and Martin announced the winning number for the \$500K cash prize. Sophie then had the honour of calling the lucky recipients of the \$4.2M Grand Prize Home.

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Jo Penkin: One step at a time

Looking back, Jo recognises she was never one to shy away from a challenge. Diagnosed with MS in her early twenties, she was simply too busy to acknowledge her symptoms and instead turned her attention to something experienced by only 1% of the population - marathon running. Jo has incredibly completed 20 marathons across the globe, driven by a simple mindset – when things get tough, one step at a time and one foot in front of the other.

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Sophie's mission

In 2024, Sophie was living what many would call a dream life - healthy, active, and surrounded by loved ones. But a week after her 27th birthday, a sudden diagnosis of MS turned everything upside down. One year on, Sophie is sharing her story of resilience, mindset, and the power of support, that she has received from MSWA and the After Hours program. "I want other people to know that a diagnosis doesn't mean your life is over - far from it."

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Running Beyond Limits

This August, a group of mates from a local running club in Perth are taking on their biggest challenge yet - running over 400 kilometres from Osborne Park to Bluff Knoll in just five days to raise money and awareness for multiple sclerosis. The event called Beyond Limits: 400km for MS, is not just about distance; it's deeply personal.

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MSWA team highly commended

Our dedicated and passionate workforce makes a difference every day in the lives of thousands of West Aussies living with a neurological condition. So, it's no surprise that the MSWA Regional Nursing Team and MSWA Dietetics Team were recognised at the 2025 WA Disability Support Awards.

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Meet Cathy!

Days before school started, Cathy had what she thought was a nasty migraine. Instead, she was diagnosed with MS.

As her condition progressed, the physical and mental demands of her role as a high school science teacher became increasingly difficult, and she nearly had no choice but to walk away from the job she loved.

"Employment support kept me working. If I can do this, hopefully it will help others."

MSWA Employment Support Consultant, Peta Flynn, worked closely with The Bunbury Senior High School team and Cathy to understand the daily demands of her role and remove any barriers in the classroom. Together, they made it possible to bring Tara on board as a support worker and education assistant - **an initiative the first of its kind** - giving Cathy the extra support she needed to keep teaching.

Watch Cathy's story below!



Get involved

Launch of the 24/7 Neuro Nurse program

MSWA is working hard to expand our nursing support through a brand-new initiative - a program designed to provide **around-the-clock access to specialist nursing care** for people living with neurological conditions.

Through a range of fundraising initiatives, we're turning this vision into reality - with the support of MSWA Client Nick, who lives with cerebral palsy.

Nick's journey hasn't been easy. His daily care needs can be complex and overwhelming - from managing medications and appointments to the worry that something might go wrong when no one's around.

Everything changed when Nick was introduced to Aline, one of the nurses at MSWA, and says having her by his side has been "life changing."

However, this care isn't available 24/7.

Your donation ensures that MSWA can launch this much needed service and continue to transform lives - allowing West Aussies like Nick to live life, not limits.

View Nick's emotional story below!



Nick's Story

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MSWA provides vital support and services to people living with neurological conditions in Western Australia. This includes people living with multiple sclerosis (MS), stroke, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, motor neurone disease, and acquired brain injury, to name a few.

Get in touch with our team on [08 9365 4888](tel:0893654888).

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