



**ANNUAL  
IMPACT REPORT  
2022-23**





An aerial photograph of a beach. The top half of the image shows turquoise ocean waves with white foam crashing onto a light-colored sandy beach. The bottom half of the image shows the sandy beach with some darker, possibly seaweed or debris, scattered along the shoreline.

In the spirit of reconciliation, MSWA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the many lands and language groups of Western 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 today.

## **NAVIGATION MENU**



**Melanie Kiely** Chief Executive Officer



**Horst Bemmerl** Chair

## *The year that was* A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND CEO

As we look back on the last 12 months, we have much to celebrate. We have come through the Covid pandemic safely, we have progressed our journey towards co-design with our community and Clients and **supported 2,209 Clients and people in our community with more than 856,000 hours of services** and support.

We have also invested millions of dollars in addressing gaps in funding and in research towards a cure or improved outcomes for our Clients and community.

Truly understanding and **increasing our social impact** is a key area of work for MSWA in the year ahead, as we strive to co-create strategies and initiatives for, and with, the Clients and community we exist to serve. To do this, we will be investing in undertaking further market research and consultation and **truly listening to what our community needs to make a positive impact on their lives.**

**A key component of this is the formation of our Client Co-Design Committee** which aims to provide a forum for members of the community, MSWA Clients and their carers to provide input into client services and service delivery designs. Already we have had so much constructive and helpful feedback from this group, with working groups established to focus on key areas.

**MSWA has also implemented new client management systems which will help us deliver our services much more effectively.**

We do acknowledge this caused some problems and confusion and we thank our Clients and their carers for their patience and understanding. We are now up and running and expect to see significant benefits for our service levels and administrative support in the coming months and years.



Regarding research, the extent of **our commitment (financial and otherwise) to MS and neurological research continues to lead the nation, thanks to our supporters.** Over the past decade we have contributed more than \$35 million to fund research into finding the cause, better treatments and a cure for MS and other neurological conditions. We are proud that in the 2022-23 financial year, we committed a further \$6 million to neurological research.

**It was also inspiring to see the Perron Institute, who we fund, achieve a significant breakthrough in MS research** this financial year with the identification of the first genetic marker associated with MS severity. This remarkable discovery not only advances our understanding of the disease, but could make it easier to identify those at greater risk of increased severity and intervene sooner for better outcomes. Of course, **none of this would be possible without the support of the WA community** who buy lottery tickets or donate money to support our cause.

**We recognise the responsibility that it brings to invest that money wisely and responsibly, to deliver positive outcomes for our community.**

A key part of achieving this is ensuring we have an organisation and a model that appropriately governs how we work and reflects our size and complexity. Hence the decision recommended by our Board and supported by our members to convert to a company limited by guarantee with a revised Constitution at a Special General Meeting in May 2023. Over the last 50 years of serving the MS and neurological community in Western Australia, MSWA has expanded exponentially. **The changes now reflect the size and complexity of our organisation and allow us to adopt more contemporary practices that ensure better governance and accountability** to our stakeholders – Clients, donors, partners, suppliers, and the community.

It is important to note that **the change of company structure does not impact the services delivered to our Clients or our status as a charity.**

**As we look ahead to the next year, with hope and a determination to do even better, we have many exciting new developments** to create even more positive outcomes for people with neurological conditions in WA. These include our joint development with the Department of Health in the Shenton Park Montario Quarter development to provide independent homes for the current residents of the Quadriplegic Centre and other West Australians with neurological conditions, a proposed new service centre in the Mid Northern suburbs and a new accommodation and service centre in Golden Bay.

**Other areas of focus based on feedback from our community include extended Outreach for all groups, a more comprehensive Peer Support program and improvements to our communication and engagement** with our Clients and community.

**In closing, we would also like to thank our partners, our funders, our volunteers, our research organisations and all our supporters and last but not least, our Board who volunteer their time to contribute to the Purpose of MSWA** which they believe so strongly in.

We would particularly like to thank Mike Linto, Jessica O'Neill, Andrew Strelein and Bhavesh Morar who left our Board this year. They have all contributed their time and intellect over a number of years to guide MSWA's growth and impact, for which we are all deeply grateful.

## OUR PURPOSE

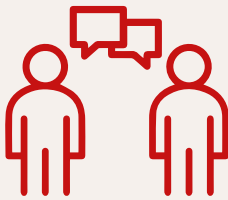
**TO EMPOWER PEOPLE LIVING WITH NEUROLOGICAL  
CONDITIONS TO LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES -**  
*to be the difference.*

## OUR VALUES



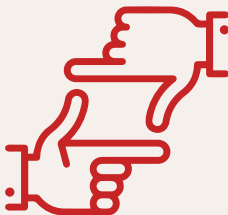
### *Respect*

We care and we treat everyone with respect.



### *Listen*

We listen and seek to understand.



### *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.





# OUR CLIENTS

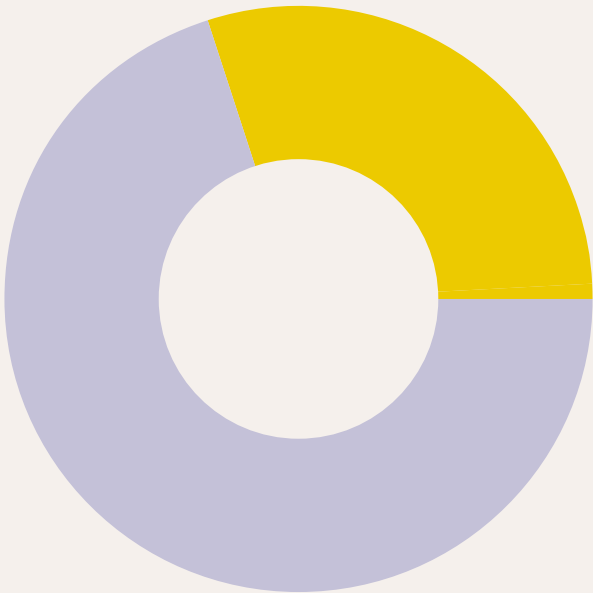


## WHO WE CARE FOR.

We support a diverse community with a range of neurological conditions, who are at different stages of their journey across a range of age groups, backgrounds and spoken languages (29, to be exact), who all have their own unique. aspirations, goals and dreams for the lives they want to lead.

### Diagnosis Group

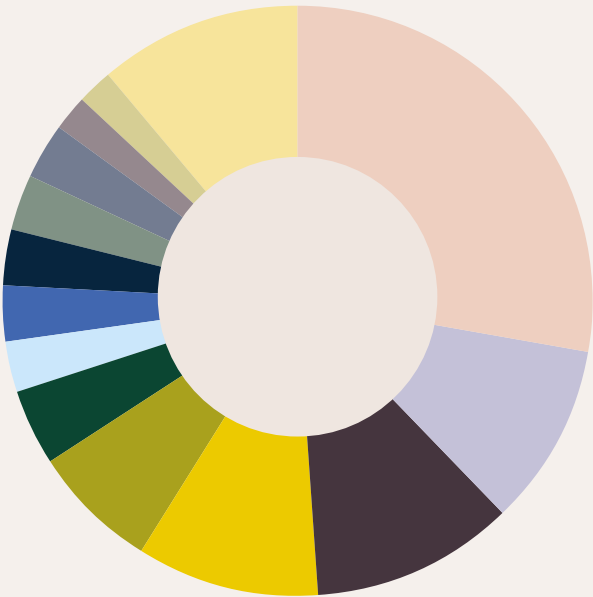
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Other neurological conditions



### Other Neurological Conditions

If we look a little deeper into the pie chart above, MSWA supports a range of other neurological conditions.

- Parkinson's (28%)
- Acquired Brain Injury (10%)
- Stroke (11%)
- Motor Neurone Disease (MND) (10%)
- Huntington's Disease (7%)
- Brain Tumors (4%)
- Charcot Marie Tooth Disease (3%)
- Cerebral Palsy (3%)
- Muscular Dystrophy (3%)
- Spinocerebellar Ataxia (3%)
- Spinal Injury (3%)
- Mytonic Dystrophy (2%)
- Functional Neurological Disorder (2%)
- Other (11%)



## OUR CLIENT STARS

This year our Clients have taken centre stage in our fundraising campaigns – right where they should be! From live weather crosses on the nightly news to making the life-changing calls to our Mega Home Lottery winners, their star power cannot be denied.



### Michael Donnelly

#### MHL Grand Prize Draw at Margaret Doody Respite House

On having the opportunity to call the winner;

*"It is really fantastic, it's the next best thing to winning yourself, to be able to tell a fellow Michael he had won the grand prize, he was obviously totally moved by it. [People] should buy as many tickets as they can, as often as they can, because you can really see here [at Margaret Doody House] what good use the money here has gone to."*

### Tracey Hockey

#### MHL Super Early Bird Draw

It was also an exhilarating experience for MSWA Client and staff member, Tracey Hockey, who pushed the button to bring up the Super Early Bird's winning ticket number.

"My heart was racing knowing that someone's life was going to be changed forever in a wonderful way," Tracey said.

*"To those who purchased tickets, thank you from the bottom of my heart! It is because of your generosity that MSWA can keep supporting more of us as needed. Life is challenging, but knowing that we can come to MSWA for support is amazing. It is so important to have safe places to go for respite, to grow, to enjoy the company of others and be supported. MSWA can offer these safe places and support services because of amazing supporters of fundraising initiatives like the lottery."*





# OUR IMPACT



## SUPPORT DELIVERED



**2,209**  
CLIENTS  
SUPPORTED



**856,050**  
HOURS OF  
SERVICE DELIVERED



**187,440**  
HOME VISITS



**180**  
NEW CLIENTS RECEIVING  
ONGOING SERVICES



**73,020**  
HOURS OF RESPITE  
SUPPORT



**432,008**  
HOURS OF  
ACCOMMODATION  
SUPPORT



**1,420**  
TOTAL VISITS  
TO RESPITE



**\$6M**  
DONATED TO RESEARCH





## THE IMPACT FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CLIENTS



*"At MSWA I feel like I have a connection with someone that understands what I am going through. I go see my counsellor even on good days, because sometimes it's good to talk about 'hey I have had a really good month' and we get to celebrate together. But we also get to break down the hard parts and teach me ways to cope."*

**Hayley Long, 29**

*"What I love about speech therapy with Georgina [Hett] is her flexibility. I have learned it is OK to swap goals and make things happen and be happier in my retirement."*

*"It was good to talk to [Client Relationship Coordinator] Pauline in both a serious and fun way. We would talk, I would cry, we'd talk more, then we'd laugh. You need all your emotions understood going through this step in your life and with someone you feel comfortable with and that you can relate to. Someone who is just, 'real'."*



*"From the start they told me your [condition] is really severe, you may not fully recover... I have just never given up I suppose. I've been lucky that I haven't had to go straight back to work, I've still been able to do my rehab and that I have had MSWA, they have done a lot for me. The physios have been incredible, to be honest. It makes me emotional to think about."*

**Chris McEncroe, 44**

[\[Read his full story\].](#)

*"After a simple face to face with Leigh and Peta [Employment Support Service], they have turned my perspective of life with MS from down and out, to there is hope and life to be had with MS. The changes may require adaption, and [this is] sometimes a challenge, but it is definitely not over."*

## There for when you start your journey

Receiving a neurological diagnosis can be an incredibly daunting experience. During this time, when options like NDIS or other funding may not be available, MSWA is ready to provide assistance and support to those who are newly diagnosed.

Based on your diagnosis, MSWA can help provide supports and services. This includes support from neurological liaison nurses, counselling services (with both in-person and telehealth choices), chances to engage with the community through peer-support and carer groups, and short-term allied health services like physiotherapy (subject to specific conditions). MSWA also provides one-on-one education sessions, to best answer the many questions a person has after a life-changing diagnosis.

For those further along their journey, but without immediate access to funding, MSWA continues to assist through nursing support and access to some of our Allied Health services. Referrals can also be made to our employment services team, to help maintain employment or find new job options.

No matter your starting point, our Client Engagement team is ready to welcome you with advice and assistance to get you started. If regular services are required, MSWA is available to help navigate the complex funding journey, including guidance to accessing funding packages and clinical assessments.

## There for when things change suddenly

Life can throw anyone a curveball, and when you have additional needs, navigating these difficult times can be even more complex.

When these changes occur, MSWA's teams are ready to help. This may involve conducting clinical assessments to help understand what's happening, working across departments to deliver specialised training and care, or engaging with funding bodies, hospitals, and external agencies to help you access the level of service you need. Furthermore, we can provide funded Respite facilities in case you need a break.

We also know that the greater the understanding, the better the outcome. MSWA completes regular check-ins and clinical assessments to ensure we know you and work proactively to map out a level of service that is right. Whatever twists and turns you encounter, MSWA is ready to help.

## There for you every day

We know that getting a plan that suits your needs is only half the journey. Accessing ongoing services while managing the financial, administrative and compliance requirements of modern funding options can be a confusing space for everyone.

Whether you need a lot or a little, MSWA is your dedicated support. Our teams are ready to deliver high-quality care, ranging from in-home assistance to our supported living options, all designed to meet your unique needs and accommodate your specific condition.

Our teams work one-on-one with you, allowing us to get to know you and your specific health needs to deliver maximum support, while simplifying the overall process. MSWA has completed this journey many times before, so our staff can help guide you to the best possible outcome.

All these services are provided through the help of our fundraising efforts, with the clear aim of supporting West Australians living with neurological conditions from the moment their journey begins, to live their best life.





## REST AND RELAXATION

Sometimes we all just need a break from the day-to-day routine and take some time to relax and refresh. If you are living with a neurological condition, or care for someone living with a neurological condition, our residential respite care provides this important opportunity. Our respite homes, located in City Beach and Treendale (Australind) are a purpose-built 'home-away-from-home' to meet all Clients' needs, with 24/7 support.

*"It is state-of-the-art inside and they have all the equipment they need here... but it also has the cosy touches, like the fireplace, that really add to the respite air. They have thought of everything; no matter what your condition is, you can come here, and they can accommodate you. The staff is just fantastic. It's terrific to have a facility like this and a program like this that MSWA runs and definitely worth every penny that people can give to support it."*

- MSWA Client Michael Donnelly

Our MSWA Outreach programs at Albany, Bunbury, Beechboro, Rockingham and Wilson are also a form of respite, where Clients can enjoy getting involved in crafts and activities, while getting the chance to catch up with friends and peers.



## MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE

We exist to assist our Clients and community to live their best lives, and for many this is a desire to live independently in their own home. To achieve this, MSWA offers a range of in-home supports, including personal care, meal preparation, shopping assistance and social support.

*"I do walking laps with my social support and my friends with MS. We went out yesterday to the shopping centre to play cards for social support. That really was fun, we have a great time and have made so many friends at MSWA with all our carers and team members – I have so many friends now. A few of us Clients from Outreach are even going on a cruise together next year!"*

- MSWA Client Susan Finlay

## SUPPORTED TO THRIVE

Living at home may no longer be a safe or practical option for people living with a neurological condition, but privacy and independence remains a high priority. Our high support accommodation sites are located in suburban surroundings, integrated within the local community. Each site houses a small number of self-contained units affording privacy, as well as shared areas for social opportunities.

## NEW SERVICES AND GROUPS AT MSWA IN FY2022-23



### Lymphoedema clinic

An important injury prevention service has landed at MSWA which will look to relieve and manage swelling experienced by MSWA Clients. 'Lymphoedema' is an umbrella term used for a range of swelling disorders and is a common problem experienced by people with reduced mobility. Early intervention is key to ensuring Clients do not develop painful injuries as a result of the swelling. [\[Read more\]](#)

Client Jeanette Hutchinson on MSWA's Lymphoedema service and Lymphoedema Physiotherapist Randall Rooney:

*"There were so many things he told me that I didn't have a clue about before – and I have had MS for 26 years now. He was just really clear on what we could do about it, how we could go about it, and was very caring, empathetic, supportive and efficient in what he did."*



### Supported Lying

Gravity works every minute of every day, and humans are instinctively driven to alter their posture to offset this relentless force. However, for some of our Clients, regular or independent movement isn't always possible. If left unsupported over time, Clients may experience destructive body postures which can impact musculoskeletal, neurological, respiratory and digestive systems.

Our MSWA Occupational Therapy Supported Lying Consultants have developed this new service which takes a multi-disciplinary approach to consider a person's daily life across the full 24 hours. The duration of time spent in bed far outweighs time spent in seating systems, so undertaking gentle and respectful postural care to protect and restore a person's body shape with customised intervention should be considered if you are already supported in sitting.

### Assistive technology

With the landscape of assistive technology vast and overwhelming, our Clients often report feeling lost in a sea of suppliers advertising their products as the best on the market. Additionally, the means of purchasing low-cost items vary based on each funding stream, to add further complication.

Identifying this need, our Occupational Therapy team has developed a Low-Cost Assistive Technology group to identify where Clients need further support and assisting to secure the funding required.





# SOCIAL CONNECTIONS









## PEER SUPPORT



MSWA offers several groups, programs and workshops to foster peer-to-peer connections, including our MSWA peer support volunteer led coffee groups. These groups are organised by people with lived experience, for people with lived experience and supported by our counselling team.

*"From my experience of working within the peer support program, I have witnessed that peer support has become increasingly important because it acknowledges and uses the power of lived experience. Individuals who participate in peer support (particularly those who are new in their diagnosis journey) have an increased sense of connection and sense of belonging, emotional resilience and increase in self-esteem. Individuals become experts through sharing of experiential knowledge and seeking strategies in times of difficulty, while forming ongoing, strong connections and a sense of purpose and meaning."*

- Dajana Tesevic, MSWA Counsellor and Peer Support Coordinator.

Claire Kennelly, who lives with MS, has led a peer support group in the northern suburbs for about four years alongside a small team. The group receives referrals from MSWA and takes newly diagnosed people, or people seeking connection at a different stage of their journey, under their wing.

*"It's good because everybody understands. We honestly talk about MS for maybe 10 minutes, then it is all about us. When people first come to the club, they know there is no judgement. There are lots of new people all the time and we catch up once a month at a local restaurant or café. It's really fun!"*

- Claire Kennelly



# RESEARCH - COMMITTED TO IMPROVING LIVES



## RESEARCH - COMMITTED TO IMPROVING LIVES



### Unlocking MS Mysteries: A Breakthrough Year in Research

The WA neurological community celebrated a groundbreaking achievement in June, as the first-ever genetic marker linked to MS severity was identified, illuminating a new path toward effective treatments and improved patient outcomes.

This was the result of a landmark study, which enlisted over 22,000 individuals with MS from around the world.

Perron Institute Researchers Professor Kermode and Dr. Fabis-Pedrini played pivotal roles in this international effort, earning well-deserved recognition as WA co-authors.

Professor Kermode describes the discovery as flinging open the doors to understanding the complex mechanisms of MS, paving the way for treatments that enhance recovery and halt disease progression. Dr. Fabis-Pedrini shares this enthusiasm, emphasising the newfound potential for drug discovery to safeguard the wellbeing of those with MS.

This crucial advance not only holds potential for new drug discovery, but also aims to preserve the wellbeing of people living with MS, marking a major stride towards improving the lives of those affected by the disease. [\[Read more\]](#)



### Engaging people with lived experience in research

Nicolette Murphy is an active participant in research initiatives, having lived with MS for over a decade. What motivates her is the recognition that her contributions can potentially change the lives of others with MS, and those in the generations to come, through the potential development of new treatments.

When Nicolette learned about Edith Cowan University's Systematic Profiling in Neurological Conditions (SPIN) trials in Perth, she was eager to participate. These trials represent a multidisciplinary approach aimed at identifying markers in individuals that can inform the development of targeted therapeutic interventions for various neurological conditions, including MS.

The goal is to understand how these conditions progress over time, through a series of physical and cognitive tests. At the conclusion of each trial, Nicolette said she experienced a profound sense of pride and accomplishment, knowing her participation has played a role in advancing our understanding of MS and its progression.

Nicolette's journey demonstrates the collaborative nature of research and the impact it can have on individuals living with neurological conditions. Her dedication, coupled with MSWA's ongoing commitment to research, paints a hopeful picture for the future.

[Read Nicolette's full story.](#)

## COMMITTED TO IMPROVING LIVES

### Hayley's Hope

For most 26-year-olds, the biggest concerns in life are climbing their career ladders, saving up for that big international trip or cracking into the property market.

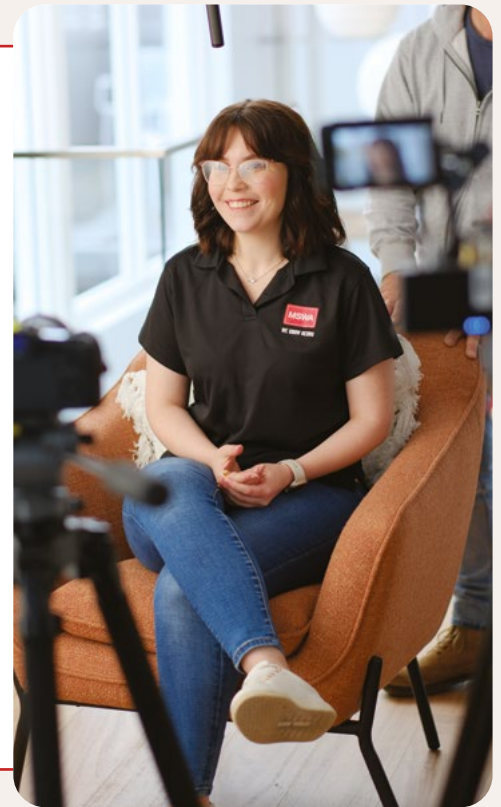
But for Hayley Long, it meant coming to terms with a life-changing MS diagnosis, tracing back her symptoms to as young as 16.

With her whole life left to live, it is MSWA's investment in her future through research which gives her hope.

*"The commitment to research from MSWA is wonderful, I have hope that eventually there will be a cure," Hayley said.*

*"Even if it is not in my lifetime, if I am a stepping stone in that journey to a cure, then that's great."*

[Watch Hayley's story.](#)



### A Decade of Dedication

MSWA's remarkable journey in funding research initiatives began over a decade ago. During this time, we have contributed more than \$35 million to support various research projects aimed at unravelling the mysteries of neurological conditions. This financial support has played a pivotal role in driving forward our understanding of these conditions, including MS, and has allowed researchers to explore potential treatments and cures.

### A Renewed Commitment in 2022-23

To continue providing hope and positive outcomes for our Clients and community, MSWA announced a fresh commitment to neurological research in the 2022-23 financial year, pledging an additional \$6 million to support ongoing and new research projects. This investment would not have been possible without the steadfast support of West Australians and the success of our fundraising initiatives and lotteries.

### Local, National, and International Research Collaboration

MSWA's research funding extends its reach across different domains, emphasising the importance of collaboration at local, national and international levels. These collaborative efforts are geared toward understanding the causes, developing more effective treatments, and, ultimately, finding cures for neurological conditions such as MS.



## MSWA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS 2022-23

Research is an essential part of healthcare. Discovering new ways to diagnose, treat, prevent, slow progression, repair and regenerate, or improve lifestyle and wellbeing is a commitment to providing people with multiple sclerosis and other neurological conditions with the best possible health outcomes. It is an area where MSWA excels at fostering and supporting new and existing research and contributing to globally recognised research in therapy, diagnosis and health care improvements. Below is a snapshot of the breadth and diversity of research projects funded by MSWA.

		Focus				Neurological condition					
		Diagnosis, early detections and causes	Protect against and slow progression	Repair and regeneration of cells	Improving lifestyle and wellbeing	Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Parkinson's Disease (PD)	Motor neuron disease (MND)	Stroke	Alzheimer's Disease	Other Neurological Conditions
Neurobiology	<b>Perron Institute - MS Demyelinating Group</b> Professor Allan Kermode is examining biomarkers, neurofilament assay and prediction of disease.		●	●		●					
	<b>Perron Institute - Neuroplasticity</b> Professor Jenny Rodger is looking at non-invasive human clinical trials using transcranial magnets.		●	●	●	●			●		
	<b>Perron Institute - Neuroprotection Agent</b> Professor Bruno Meloni and Professor Neville Knuckey are developing a new drug to reduce brain damage after stroke.		●	●					●		
	<b>Curtin University - Clinical Trial for Treating Dementia</b> Professor John Mamo is looking into a new drug for Alzheimer's Disease and other NC to improve cognitive function and/or slow down the decline.		●	●						●	●
	<b>Curtin University - (CHIRI) Clinical Intervention Trial in RRMS</b> Professor John Mamo is investigating specific lipid nutraceuticals (a high fat diet intervention) with the aim to achieve remyelination.			●		●					
	<b>Edith Cowan University - Systematic Profiling in Neurological conditions (SPIN) and Mind Pod</b> Professor Moira Sim is identifying markers in individuals to develop and deliver more targeted therapeutic interventions.				●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	<b>Perron Institute - Gut Microbiome for Parkinson's Disease</b> Dr Luke Whiley is examining changes and potential links for risk of developing Parkinson's Disease	●					●				
Immunology											

		Focus				Neurological condition					
		Diagnosis, early detections and causes	Protect against and slow progression	Repair and regeneration of cells	Improving lifestyle and wellbeing	Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Parkinson's Disease (PD)	Motor neuron disease (MND)	Stroke	Alzheimer's Disease	Other Neurological Conditions
Genetics and epidemiology	<b>Perron Institute - Genomic Medicine</b> Professor Sulev Koks and Professor Anthony Akkari are identifying genes that have predisposition to neuromuscular and neurogenerative diseases, then finding therapies to block dysfunctional genes and reduce risk.	●				●	●	●			
	<b>Telethon Kids Institute - Phototherapy for participants with Clinically Isolated Syndrome (PhoCIS)</b> Dr Jonaton Leffler is examining from the PhoCIS biobank to identify female predispositions, and pathogenic and autoimmune mechanisms.	●				●					
	<b>Perron Institute - Trajectories of Outcome in Neurological Conditions (TONiC)</b> Professor Sulev Koks is looking at quality of life in a longitudinal study with patients living with motor neuron disease (MS and PD to follow) and identifying genetic contributors to MND.	●			●	●	●	●			
	<b>Perron Institute - Data Research Registry – MS Base</b> Professor Allan Kermode is compiling national and international longitudinal data sets with clinical data including therapies, MRIs, and relapses.	●			●	●					
Social and applied research	<b>Curtin University - Elucidating Diet in MS to improve disease outcomes</b> Associate Professor Lucinda Black is investigating dietary strategies for slowing MS progression and improving MS healthcare.		●		●	●					
	<b>Curtin University - Ageing and Neurodegenerative Diseases</b> Professor John Mamo is looking into linking PD, MND, HD and MS through lifestyle factors and potentially identifying interventions and treatments that may contribute to dementia prevention.		●		●	●	●	●		●	●
	<b>Curtin University - Curtin Speech Therapy Project</b> Impact of respiratory muscle strength training on drooling and swallowing.				●		●				
	<b>Edith Cowan University - SPIN Extension</b> Professor Moira Sim is evaluating multidisciplinary, wholistic interventions to managing conditions and evaluations.				●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	<b>Curtin University - CHIRI</b> Testing new theory on the cause of Migraine in MS; MS-NOPAIN	●				●					
	Neuro Research Data Hub Collaboration (Perron Institute and ECU)										●



# ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM



*“We are constantly in awe of the support we receive from our amazing community. From volunteers and event participants to lottery ticket buyers and donors, we come together as one team focused on supporting people with neurological conditions in WA. Thank you to every person who contributed to our purpose, we couldn't do it without you.”*

MSWA Chief Marketing Officer Tony Millar

TOTAL AMOUNT  
FUNDRAISED ACROSS  
LOTTERIES, EVENTS,  
DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS:

**\$68,281,105**

WITH A TOTAL OF **30,322** WINNERS

**209**  
VOLUNTEERS

**3,069**  
PARTICIPANTS

**1,397**  
DONORS



## A COMMUNITY EFFORT

### 2022 Ocean Ride – Powered by Retravision

An incredible **2,100** cyclists came together to fundraise more than **\$398,000** for people living with neurological conditions as part of the 2022 MSWA Ocean Ride in November. From seasoned cyclists aiming to beat a personal best, joy riders spending a day out with family and right through to beginners trying something new, all were united in supporting the MSWA cause.

#### What our riders had to say:

*“My favourite part of the day was being out on the road with other people who are riding for the same cause.”*

*“It felt good to support, ride and be a part of something.”*



### Step Up For MSWA – Powered by Commonwealth Bank

The 2023 MSWA Step Up event was a great success, with over 800 participants and \$163,885 raised. Participant Colin Ottaway took out the most steps climbed with a huge 24 climbs – that’s over 24,000 steps! Our top fundraisers were recognised on the day, with top individual fundraiser Nicholas Ruggiero, raising an impressive \$5,675, assisting his team – the Ruggiero Foundation – to also claim the highest fundraising team title, raising over \$24,000.



### Albany Swim and Ride

Swimmers of all ages and abilities came together in March to raise an astounding \$19,857 for people living with neurological conditions in the Great Southern, as part of the iconic MSWA Albany Swim. An impressive 4450 laps were completed at the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre over the eight-hour marathon relay, with Teen Marines clocking up the most laps at 1330.

The inspiring community camaraderie was felt again in May, with 113 cyclists crossing the finish line of the 2023 Albany Ride. Of the ten teams, Southern Masters Cycling was the highest fundraising team with a total of \$5,875, followed closely by *Worst Pace Scenario* on \$4,275. Meanwhile, Tony Caramia was recognised as the highest individual fundraiser, amassing \$3,635 for the cause – astounding efforts all round.







*"We express our sincere gratitude to all those who have supported us over the past year, including our valued Clients and residents, dedicated team members and volunteers, and the broader community. The unwavering support we have received at MSWA events and fundraising initiatives is truly inspiring, and we remain humbled by the generosity of local businesses and supporters."*

- Melanie Kiely

## PARTNERING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

### Pharmacy 777

In 2023, the Pharmacy 777 team raised an astounding \$47,240 for West Australians living with neurological conditions as part of the HBF Run for a Reason. This huge effort saw them crowned as the highest fundraising team across the whole event. This follows the generous donation of a \$25,000 pressure mapping system in 2022, a brand-new technology for MSWA which takes the guesswork out of pressure injury prevention. [\[Read more\]](#)

*"It's the kind of thing you can't see with the naked eye. Even with the most highly trained OTs doing postural assessments, we still can't pick up those really niche high-risk areas without this technology."*

Senior Occupational Therapist Anna Jessop

### Webb and Brown-Neaves

Our fundraising lotteries wouldn't be the level of success we enjoy today without the beautiful and fully accessible homes built with our partners, Webb and Brown-Neaves. We thank them for their ongoing support of MSWA, our Clients and the neurological community we exist to serve.



# LOOKING AHEAD





## CO-DESIGNING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

MSWA has stepped into an exciting new chapter, where the overwhelming theme is to ensure our Clients and community are at the centre of all that we do.

A key initiative to achieve this goal was the creation of the MSWA Client Advisory and Co-design Committee, a platform for Clients, their carers and members of our community to provide input into our service delivery models, processes and communications.

We are grateful to our passionate Committee members for providing their time and expertise and congratulate Gavin Harper who was voted in as deputy chair at our most recent meeting.

While the committee is still in its infancy, we look forward to the positive change that can be achieved as one team united through a united purpose.

“It is quite a sobering challenge, because there is quite a lot to it and it needs to be done right,” said Deputy Chair Gavin Harper.

*“For me there was a level of frustration, so I wanted to be active to try and get things changed. It’s something I have done before in a business context and I wanted to see whether I could make a difference here. To make change, but do it in a way that is participative and positive.”*

### Client Advisory and Co-design Committee

Gavin Harper

Irene Long

Allen Donald Roberts

Wildaliz DeJesus Arocho

Ann Marie Linto

Karen Gillies

Brooke Cuthbertson

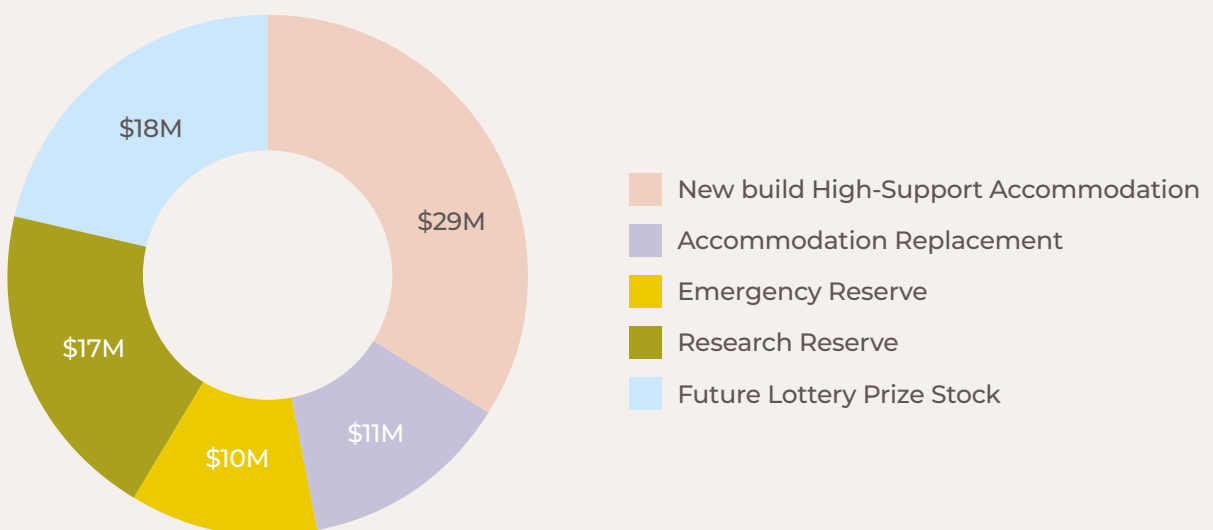
Ellen-May Eaton

Terry Compton

Joanne Samer

Michael Fay

## INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE (THREE YEARS)



## INVESTING FOR FUTURE IMPACT

### OUR FINANCES

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23
REVENUE	\$115M	\$114M
EXPENSES	-\$96M	-\$104M
NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE	-\$0.9M	\$0.7M
SURPLUS	\$19M	\$11M
NET ASSETS	\$91M	\$102M
NET CURRENT ASSETS	\$49M	\$58M
INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH	\$5M	\$6M

### INVESTING IN FUTURE FACILITIES

MSWA is continuing to meet the needs of our Clients through strategic investment in purpose-built accommodation, respite and service centres over the next three years.





## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

### 23% *Accommodation*

For some of our Clients, living at home may no longer be an option. MSWA's accommodation sites are located in suburban surroundings, with self-contained units affording privacy and independence.



### 4% *Respite*

Our MSWA respite facilities located in City Beach and Treendale provide our Clients and carers the important opportunity to relax and refresh away from the day-to-day routine.



### 40% *Community Support*

MSWA offers a range of in-home supports, including personal care, meal preparation and social support to ensure our Clients can live independently in their own homes.



### 21% *Allied Health Services*

Our multi-disciplinary services include physical and occupational therapies, nursing, social services and speech pathology, ensuring our Clients' physical, mental and social needs are cared for.



### 12% *Investment In Research*

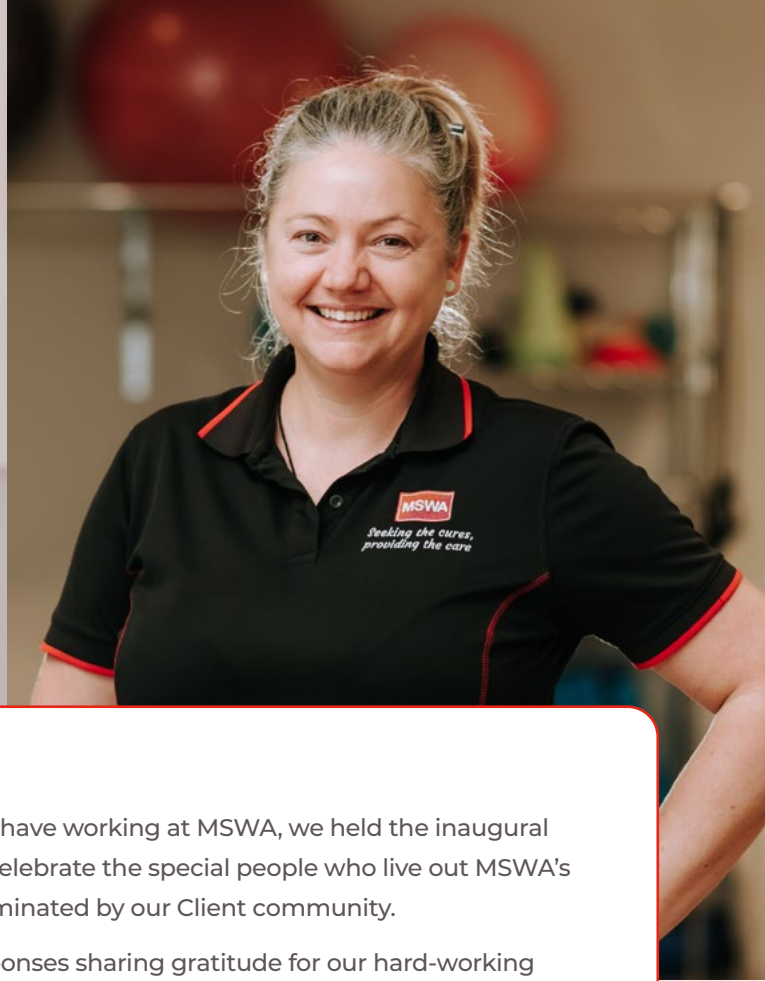
To continue providing hope and positive outcomes for our Clients and community, MSWA pledged \$6 million to support ongoing and new research projects in FY 2022-23. This totals \$35 million over the past decade.



A photograph of two women sitting on a couch and laughing heartily. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a black polo shirt with the MSWA logo and the text 'WE KNOW NEURO' on the chest. The woman on the right has short grey hair, wears glasses, and a grey t-shirt. They are both smiling broadly, showing their teeth. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# OUR TEAM - COMMITTED TO MAKING DIFFERENCE





## MSWA'S DIFFERENCE MAKERS

In an effort to appreciate the incredible staff we have working at MSWA, we held the inaugural Difference Maker Awards at the end of 2022 to celebrate the special people who live out MSWA's purpose and vision in everything they do, as nominated by our Client community.

We were overwhelmed with more than 100 responses sharing gratitude for our hard-working frontline teams, and determined two worthy winners: Joanne Ingham and Suzanne Rice.

### Joanne Ingham

#### Community Support Worker (Lower South Metro Team)

It is Joanne's mission in life to assist her Clients to maintain their independence for as long as possible through her Community Support role, in which she dedicates 100 per cent of herself to every Client in every session.

"To be able to help someone and make them happier, make them feel more valued and just to be of assistance is what I get out of it. It gives me pleasure to go to work to be with these people, and I am sure I get just as much out of them as they do with me, because I am forever laughing with them."

What Joanne's Clients had to say:

*"She shows me the upmost respect and we laugh, and she makes a huge difference to my day. Jo is completely present in the moment and I value and look forward to our time together."*

[Read the full story.](#)

### Suzanne Rice

#### Physiotherapist (Albany)

A people-person through and through, Suzanne's passion is to support her Clients to achieve their goals and celebrate these wins as if they are her own.

"When they feel like they are losing function, to be able to change it around and see that they are actually gaining ability and they can manage it themselves and take control back, it's a real privilege to be able to instill that. I care about making them feel good, helping them feel good and empowering themselves... it's my passion."

What Suzanne's Clients had to say:

*"Suzanne has never judged me when I give up on myself and she gets me back to where I need to be with my exercise programs. She makes my life worth living again, for which I am eternally grateful."*

[Read the full story.](#)



## VOLUNTEERS

### Joan Crossman [\[Read more\]](#)

Giving back to the community is a way of life for MSWA volunteer of five years, Joan Crossman. Dedicating her time as an MSWA Wilson Outreach activity assistant on Tuesdays, fundraising for the Cancer Council Relay For Life event and altering costumes for Ballroom Fit chair dancers in between, Joan is one busy lady.

*"[Volunteering] helped me, too, because when we first came out to Australia, we didn't have any family here. Through volunteering I was able to make new bonds and connections," she said. "We all age differently, but volunteering gives you a purpose and a belief, so you are not just sitting on the veranda whiling away the time."*



### John Robertson [\[Read more\]](#)

When John Robertson first started volunteering at MSWA, Google was a new kid on the block, the assembly of the International Space Station had only just begun and you still couldn't use your landline and internet at the same time! Safe to say, in his 24 years of dedicated service, John has borne witness to many changes – but his passion for the people at MSWA has never faltered.

*"I'd just like to see more people do it; get people out of the pattern that they have in their lives, look around and do something positive."*



### Events

During the 2022-23 financial year we received the support of 90 volunteers to help across our fundraising events across regional and metro WA. Volunteers are instrumental in making these events run smoothly and we simply couldn't do it without them!



### Vollie Lunch

In May we held a luncheon for National Volunteer Week to say 'thank you' to our dedicated volunteers, who have selflessly dedicated their time to ensure our Clients and community live their best possible lives.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Board Chair:**  
Horst Bemmerl



**Deputy Chair:**  
Liam Roche



Jason Brotherson



**Bhavesh Morar**  
(Departing FY23-24)



Michael Fay



Kate Gatti



Benjamin Jardine



John Patmore



**Professor**  
Bill Carroll AM



David Jones



**Andrew Strelein**  
(Departing FY23-24)



**Jessica O'Neill**  
(Departing FY22-23)

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Melanie Kiely

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Asanka Dissanayake

**Chief Client Operations Officer:**  
Nicola Washington

**Chief Marketing Officer:**  
Tony Millar

**Chief People and Culture Officer:**  
Julie Fairweather

**Chief Information Officer:**  
Simon Jennings

**Senior Manager, Quality,  
Safeguarding and Risk:**  
Alison Cox

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