

PhD candidate needs research participants to better understand what makes and creates effective Parkinson's support groups for people living in rural and regional areas of NSW

Charles Sturt University PhD candidate Mr Vincent Carroll is inviting Parkinson's New South Wales (NSW) support groups situated in rural and regional NSW to take part in a study which aims to better understand what makes and creates an effective Parkinson's support group from the perspective of people with Parkinson's disease (PD) and their caregivers.

A Charles Sturt PhD candidate is inviting Parkinson's support groups across rural and regional NSW to participate in a study

A PhD candidate from [Charles Sturt University](#) is conducting a study to better understand what makes and creates an effective Parkinson's support group from the perspective of people with Parkinson's disease (PD) and their caregivers.

[Mr Vincent Carroll](#) (pictured) is inviting rural and regional Parkinson's support groups to participate, the support groups leaders, people with Parkinson's and caregivers in his PhD research project.

Mr Carroll, who is also a Parkinson's Clinical Nurse Consultant at the [Mid North Coast Local Health District](#) and [Parkinson's New South Wales](#) said the study aims to explore the models of Parkinson's support group leadership, and what makes and creates an effective Parkinson's support group.

"The need for support is a central part of living and dealing with the challenges Parkinson's disease brings to an individual and the caregivers who live with them. Support groups provide an environment for accessing professional and peer support," he said.

"This study aims to explore the models of Parkinson's support group leadership and what makes and creates an effective Parkinson's support group."

"Support groups are typically facilitated by trained and untrained leaders with the aim of enhancing the coping skills and abilities of people who share a common experience."

"Ultimately it is about listening carefully to their story, their experience, their journey, so we can understand group leadership and what makes and creates an effective Parkinson's support group."

Mr Carroll said he chose to undertake the study because it contributes to [Parkinson's New South Wales support groups vision, mission and purpose](#), and the [University's core values](#) of making an impact within its communities, and the [University's research narrative](#) to create a world worth living in through developing resilient people and flourishing communities in rural and regional areas of NSW.

Participants will be asked to take part in a 45-90 minute video interview conducted by Mr Carroll.

After the interview, participants will be asked if they would like to review the research findings and will be posted or emailed the initial written summary.

A follow-up conversation for participants to discuss the findings with Mr Carroll will then be organised. All responses will be treated confidentially.

For more information please refer to the [Participant Information Sheets](#) or contact Vincent Carroll via telephone 0401595795 or email ycarroll@csu.edu.au

The study is being supervised by Associate Professor Rachel Rossiter and Associate Professor Marguerite Bramble from Charles Sturt University.

Media Note:

To arrange interviews with Mr Vincent Carroll, contact Mirelle Brockett at Parkinson's NSW Marketing and Digital Manager on phone 1800644189 or pnswnsw@parkinsonsnsw.org.au