



## **MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate distribution**

### **11 April is World Parkinson's Day**

11 April will be World Parkinson's Day – part of World Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Parkinson's is a progressive, degenerative condition of the central nervous system. Neurological diseases are the world's greatest contributor to disability – and Parkinson's is the most prevalent neurological condition. It has no cure.

There are currently more than 200,000 people living with the disease in Australia, including more than 69,000 people in NSW. By 2040, the number of people living with Parkinson's in Australia is expected to double.

Facts about Parkinson's disease:

- Parkinson's is more prevalent than breast, prostate, and bowel cancer combined. Yet it receives far less Government funding than these other diseases.
- With more than 50 symptoms, Parkinson's is complex, misunderstood, and in some cases misdiagnosed.
- Men are twice as likely to be diagnosed with Parkinson's than women.
- Common Parkinson's symptoms include shaking and tremor, rigid and stiff muscles, slowness of movement and a frozen facial expression.
- Non-motor symptoms include anxiety, fatigue, pain, sleep problems, depression, eating and swallowing and more.
- Loss of smell and small handwriting may be an early sign of Parkinson's.

#### **For more information**

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**W:** [www.parkinsonsnsw.org.au/](http://www.parkinsonsnsw.org.au/)