Parkinson's is growing. The impact on NSW is growing faster.

Parkinson's disease is now widely described as a Parkinson's pandemic — the fastest growing neurological condition in the world and a major driver of disability, falls and hospital use.

Parkinson's in New South Wales

- **68,850** people are living with Parkinson's in NSW
- That's **around 31% of the national total**
- For every person diagnosed, **at least two family members or carers** are directly affected
- **More than 206,500 people in NSW** live with Parkinson's every day

Parkinson's is more prevalent than many cancers with much less investment.

Parkinson's prevalence is much higher than prostate, breast, bowel and lung cancer combined, yet it attracts far less dedicated system funding. Its impact is felt across hospitals, aged care, families and communities.

The cost to the health system

- **$1.1 billion** per year in direct health and aged-care costs nationally
- **$9.9 billion** per year in total economic cost
- **58,000 hospital bed days each month** are occupied by patients who are clinically ready for discharge but cannot leave hospital
- This equates to approximately **$62 million per month** in hospital system costs

People with Parkinson's are at particularly high risk of:

- Recurrent falls
- Unplanned hospitalisation
- Prolonged length of stay
- Delayed discharge
- Premature entry to residential aged care

Many of these outcomes are preventable with early, specialist support.

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A trusted partner for NSW

For **47 years**, Parkinson's NSW has been the state's specialist Parkinson's organisation, delivering the 1800 Parkinson's NSW InfoLine, a nurse-led statewide virtual clinic, a co-funded Parkinson's Specialist Nurse Network embedded in Local Health Districts, and complementary counselling, education and peer-support programs that support people with Parkinson's, carers and health professionals.

The 1800 Parkinson's InfoLine

A nurse-led, statewide virtual clinic.

Provides specialist advice, early intervention, navigation and support for people living with Parkinson's, their carers, GPs and clinicians.

The Parkinson's Specialist Nurse Network

A hybrid virtual community based service:

- Embedded across Local Health Districts
- Support people with Parkinson's closer to home
- Strong focus on regional and rural NSW

Funding Context

The current grant of $99,000 over three years ceased on 30 June 2026. Funding is significantly lower than comparable neurological organisations.

Funding Proposal

Parkinson's NSW is seeking a **three-year partnership with the NSW Government** for a total investment of $4.6 million to strengthen and scale these two high-impact services.

1. The 1800 Parkinson's InfoLine

2. The Parkinson's Specialist Nurse Network

Parkinson's NSW will **more than match this funding** from non-government sources, bringing total annual program investment to **approximately $2.5 million**.

Supporting people earlier reduces pressure later on hospitals, families and the health system.

A modest investment with measurable savings

The annual investment is fully offset if the combined services:

- Prevent **around 70 fall-related hospitalisations per year** (approximatley 0.17% of older people's fall admissions), or
- Avoid approximatley 1,500 hospital bed days per year (around 0.26% of currently reported 'bed-block' days).

Any additional reductions delivers a **net saving** to NSW Health and frees hospital capacity for other patients.

IN THIS TOGETHER parkinson's NSW

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