

What is Multiple Sclerosis?

Over 4,000 New Zealanders are diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, a chronic autoimmune condition, affecting 2.3 million people worldwide.



While MS doesn't discriminate we do know that:

- MS impacts women **three** times more than men
- It often surfaces between a person's **20s and 50s**, in the prime of their lives for families and career
- New Zealand has one of the **highest incidence rates per capita** worldwide, a rate which increases the further away from the equator you go.
- MS causes damage to the nerves which break down signals sent from the brain impacting cognition, vision, speech, swallowing, fatigue, movement, nerve sensations, bladder and bowel and emotions,
- And is considered the most common non-traumatic disabling condition.

How will my donation help people with MS?

By donating to **Kiss Goodbye to MS** you will be helping to improve the lives of people with MS in numerous ways.

You will be supporting MS New Zealand to continue to advocate for greater access to treatments, resources and services to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the 4000 New Zealanders diagnosed, plus their families and carers.

- greater understandings of the condition,
- earlier diagnosis,
- increased availability of successful treatment options,
- effective lifestyle management techniques,
- improved support services, and
- valuable resources to take control of the condition.

In terms of MS 'knowledge is power'. With the correct information and support people with MS can thrive, be given the tools to empower their own lives, be their own advocates, continue in employment, support their families and achieve their dreams.

Your donation will also be making a lasting impact by supporting research both in New Zealand and internationally to improve understandings and ground-breaking discoveries into the condition

- **45%** supports Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand's advocacy and information programmes
- **45%** stimulates NZ based research projects funded by the Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand Research Trust
- **10%** funds research and access to treatment internationally through the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation.

Thank you from the team,
Kiss Goodbye to MS New Zealand