



Making Connections in 2014

A message from the CEO

We have all heard the old adage, "It's all about who you know". I would add that the reverse is equally true – it is also about who knows you. At MND NSW, our goals are lofty. We aim for nothing less than a cure. But we're aware that the path to that goal is made up of many more-modest moments; many personal connections that will, one by one, add up to a groundswell of awareness and understanding about MND and to a commitment to fight for our cause.

That is why it's with pride that I review with you our progress in 2014, seen in terms of the wealth of new connections we've made. In the past twelve months we've become better connected to our members, to healthcare professionals and the medical community, to the press and media, and to the greater public whose interest, support and commitment we need.

I invite you to celebrate these new connections with me. We greatly appreciate the role you play in the MND NSW community.

Graham Opie
Chief Executive Officer



A growing team

It's easier to make new connections when we have more team members for people to connect with! This year has seen healthy growth in Volunteer Ambassadors and some changes in the MND NSW team. Please welcome:

- **Donnamaree Gasparrini** Volunteer Ambassador
 - **Cate Patrick** Volunteer Ambassador
 - **Kathryn Ratcliffe** Volunteer Ambassador
 - **Amy Critchley** Board Member
 - **Kirsten Harley** Board Member
 - **Nick Shaw** Board Member
 - **Arja Aladjadjian** Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist
 - **Julie Becke** FlexEquip Support Officer
 - **Madeleine Bowman** Regional Advisor for Sydney East and South
 - **Melanie Oxenham** Regional Advisor for Western Sydney, Blue Mountains and Central West NSW
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New connections with our members

2014 has seen the introduction of new services for our members, as well as the expansion of established programs. We hope that through the expansion of established programs we have been able to connect with even more of our members and their families.

- 120 members, friends, and family attended our Ask the Experts forum
- 228 came to our information days for members, families and carers
- 97 new members, family and friends have attended the last six Information Evenings for people recently diagnosed with MND
- 400 members turned to FlexEquip, for a total of 2161 equipment aids and items
- 121 people attended our Day of Hope and Remembrance
- Our 15 Metropolitan and Regional Support Groups saw a combined attendance of 750 participants

New connections with healthcare providers

One of our key efforts is the education of community healthcare providers (HCPs) so that they can better provide quality care to our members. Our goal is to increase the understanding of the challenges facing our members, and to motivate HCPs to advocate on our members' behalf. This past year saw invaluable new connections made with the healthcare community that we hope will ultimately benefit our members.

- 237 HCPs trained face-to-face this year through MND Aware
- 4,301 HCPs trained through MND Aware online
- 1,074 HCPs trained through MND Aware face-to-face, to date
- 10,787 HCPs trained through MND Aware online, to date
- Grand total of 11,861 HCPs trained through MND Aware, to date

In July 2013, MND Aware was honoured as one of three finalists for the 2013 National Disability Awards.



Ask the Experts Forum



Day of Hope and Remembrance



Research Briefing



MND Aware Session



2013 National Disability Awards



Care for Carers



Christmas Fundraising



New connections with the greater community

To create a more positive outlook for people living with MND and to energise the pursuit of a cure, we need to form as many connections as we can with the wider community. We need to raise awareness, sow compassion and reap commitment.

This year brought a host of new connections, coming together in a plethora of community events. We thank everyone involved for their support, and for their generous donations.

- A total of 82 community-organised events were held in support of MND NSW this year and raised \$451,883.87!
- Key events that made the headlines included the Gundaroo Music Festival, the Tas Run and ASX Thomson Reuters.
- There were 9 Walk to d'Feet MND events, raising \$182,887.33
- 89 volunteers worked tirelessly for Cornflower Blue Day – MND Week and raised \$29,584.

Sailors with disAbility



City to Surf Team



Walk to d'Feet Team Jodie



MND Week at Circular Quay



... and Wynyard Station

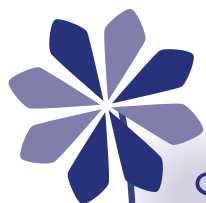


City to Surfer



Santa visits





Staying connected

The challenge for 2015 is to keep growing our connections, to keep focusing attention on the quest for a cure, to keep educating health care providers and the greater public about the needs of our members, and most of all, to keep nurturing our connections with our members themselves.

All of this requires resources. It takes money and person-power to deliver the day-to-day support that MND NSW has become known for, and to provide the invaluable human connection that our members rely on.

You can help us in our efforts. Anything you can contribute financially would be greatly appreciated.

- Click to 'Donate' at www.mndnsw.asn.au to make a secure donation online with a credit card, or download a form to fill and send with your cheque in the mail.
- You can phone us on 02 8877 0999, if you prefer.
- If you would like to make a gift to MND NSW in your will, please contact us on 02 8877 0928, or email admin@mndnsw.asn.au
- We would love you to join our Blue Cornflower Society—invaluable benefactors who support the work of MND NSW.

