

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



Across Australia, more than 2,700 people are currently living with MND, and each day two more Australians receive this devastating diagnosis. MND gradually takes away a person's ability to move, talk, swallow, and breathe — stealing precious moments with loved ones and, ultimately, their lives.

People living with MND, their families and carers, and those who carry MND-associated genes, are at the heart of everything we do. Their courage, resilience, and determination continue to inspire and guide our work every day.

MND Australia is the national peak body for motor neurone disease. Together with our members, the State MND Associations, our mission is to improve the lives of everyone impacted by MND through advancing high quality care, advocacy and research.



MND Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

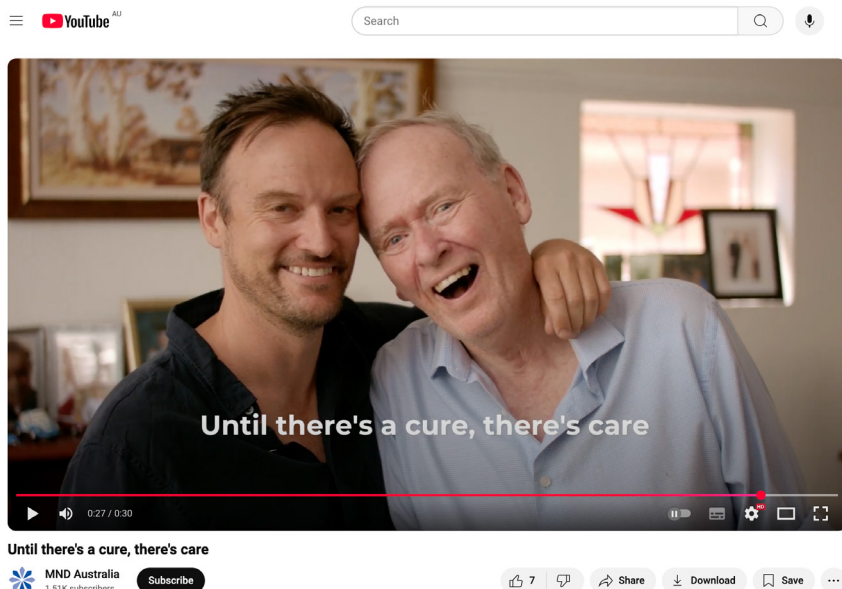


# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Danson / Chair, MND Australia

The 2024–25 financial year has been one of significant progress for MND Australia. Across all areas of our work, we have continued to strengthen our impact through leadership, collaboration, and a focus on improving the lives of people living with MND today, while advancing research that will change the future.

In March 2025, we launched our first national awareness campaign, 'Until there's a cure, there's care', which achieved almost \$2 million in pro-bono media placement across national TV, cinemas, transit hubs, shopping centres, and online. The campaign significantly increased public awareness of MND and highlighted the vital work of MND Australia and the State MND Associations.



We were also proud to appoint our first MND Australia Ambassadors — Peter Russo, who lives with MND, and Jane Simpson, a past carer. Their voices bring powerful insight, authenticity, and hope to our community, supporting awareness, advocacy, and engagement across Australia.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Andrew Danson** / Chair, MND Australia

Officially launched in September 2024, our National Lived Experience Network (LEN) connects people impacted by MND with professionals across care, advocacy, research and information. In its first year, the LEN has grown to 165 members and supported over 70 engagement activities, resulting in more than 300 lived experience contributions. Early feedback is highlighting stronger partnerships, deeper insights, and growing international interest in the model.

Our national research program continued to grow, funding \$2.55 million in world-class research exploring the causes of MND, pathways to effective treatments and improved care. Through our Research Committee, funding is directed to projects with the greatest potential for real-world impact, driving both understanding and innovation.

This work was showcased at the 2024 MND Research Symposium in Melbourne, where leading researchers, clinicians, and people with lived experience shared discoveries and emerging approaches to care.





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Andrew Danson** / Chair, MND Australia

This year, MND Australia was delighted to secure \$935,900 for four grant-funded projects. Initiatives that these grants support include the delivery of new resources our website, the National Lived Experience Network and the 2025 MND Australia Care Forum.

During the May 2025 federal election we released our 2025 Federal Election Platform, launching five key policy recommendations and encouraging the MND community to engage with local candidates to ensure the issues affecting people with MND are heard at the national level. Our advocacy priorities were also supported throughout 2024-25 with an additional eight submissions to government consultations and reviews.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members for their service and commitment throughout the year — Peter Ricketts (Treasurer), Di Melham (Company Secretary), Professor David Burke (Research Committee Chair), Professor Samar Aoun, Amy Critchley, Marion Hemphill, Chris Symonds, and Jeremy Urbach. I would also like to particularly acknowledge Jemma Scott, Wayne Pfeiffer, and Professor Tracey Dickson, who concluded their terms on the MND Australia Board during the year, but who all continue serve the MND community in other avenues.

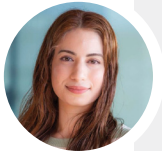
On behalf of the Board, I thank the MND Australia team, Research Committee, State MND Associations, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Together, we are driving progress in research, enhancing care, and working towards a future free from MND.

Andrew Danson  
Chair, MND Australia



# 2025 RESEARCH GRANTS

## MNDA 2025 RESEARCH *fellows*



*Dr Azin Amin* / UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Bill Gole MND Research Fellowship



*Dr Nathan Pavey* / UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

MND Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship



*Dr Sophia Luikinga* / UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Scott Sullivan MND Research Fellowship

## INNOVATOR GRANT *recipients*



*Dr Lotta Oikari* /

QIMR Berhofer

NTI MND Research Grant



*Dr Neville Ng* /

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

MonSTaR MND Research Grant



*A/Prof Dominic Ng* /

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Charcot, supported by Fat Rabbit



*Dr Nirma Perera* /

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The Elizabeth and Peter John  
Cahill MND Research Grant



*Dr Abigail Pfaff* /

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Dr Paul Brock MND Research Grant



*Dr Rita Mejzini* /

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Peter Stearne Familial MND Research Grant



*Dr Andrew Phipps* /

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Linda Elphick MND Research Grant



*Dr Eduardo Albornoz* /

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Murray Geale MND Research Grant



*Dr Sayanthooran Saravanabavan* / MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Daniel Veysey MND Research Grant



*Dr Sonam Parakh* / MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Col Bambrick MND Research Grant



*Natalie Grima* / MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Superball XVII MND Research Grant



*Prof Peter Catchside* / FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Eileen Grace Bignall MND Research Grant



*Dr Grant Richter* / MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Ian Sneddon Two Rivers Run MND Research Grant



*Rebecca Francis* / FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

MND South Australia MND Care Research Grant



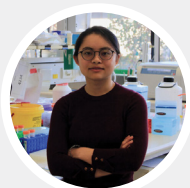
*Yuval Gurfinkel* / MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Jenny Simko MND Research Grant

## PHD TOP-UP SCHOLARS 2025



*Anastasiya Potapenko* /  
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

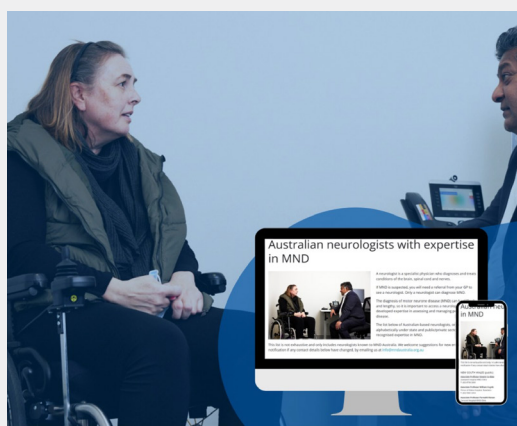
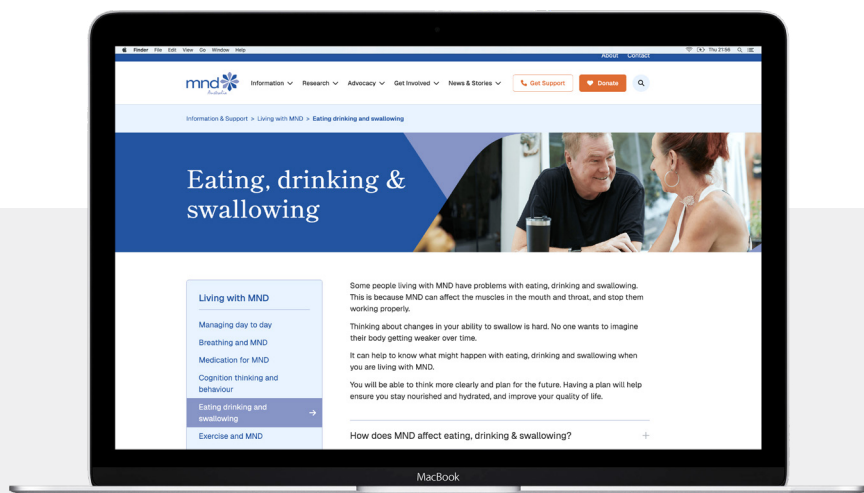


*Yi Ling Clare Low* /  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

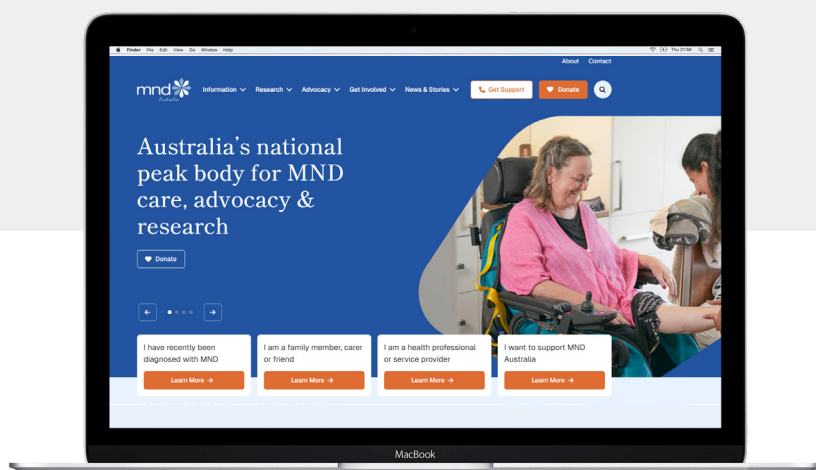
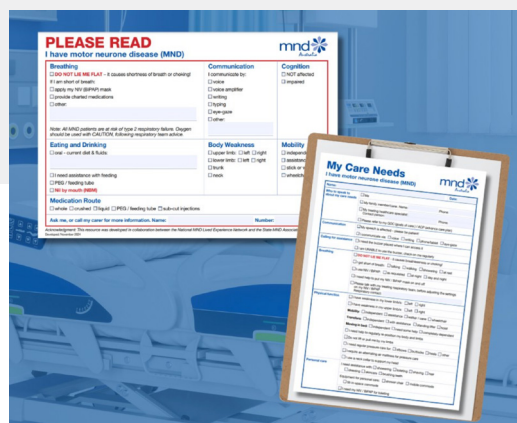
# INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

In collaboration with our State MND Associations and people with lived experience, we developed and updated variety of new resources to help support people living with MND. This included two interactive and printable documents and posters that help people communicate their specific care needs within a hospital setting.

In early 2025, we launched our new look website, with improved navigation and usability. Over 150 pages information pages are available on our website, including tailored information for people living with MND, carers, and health professionals.

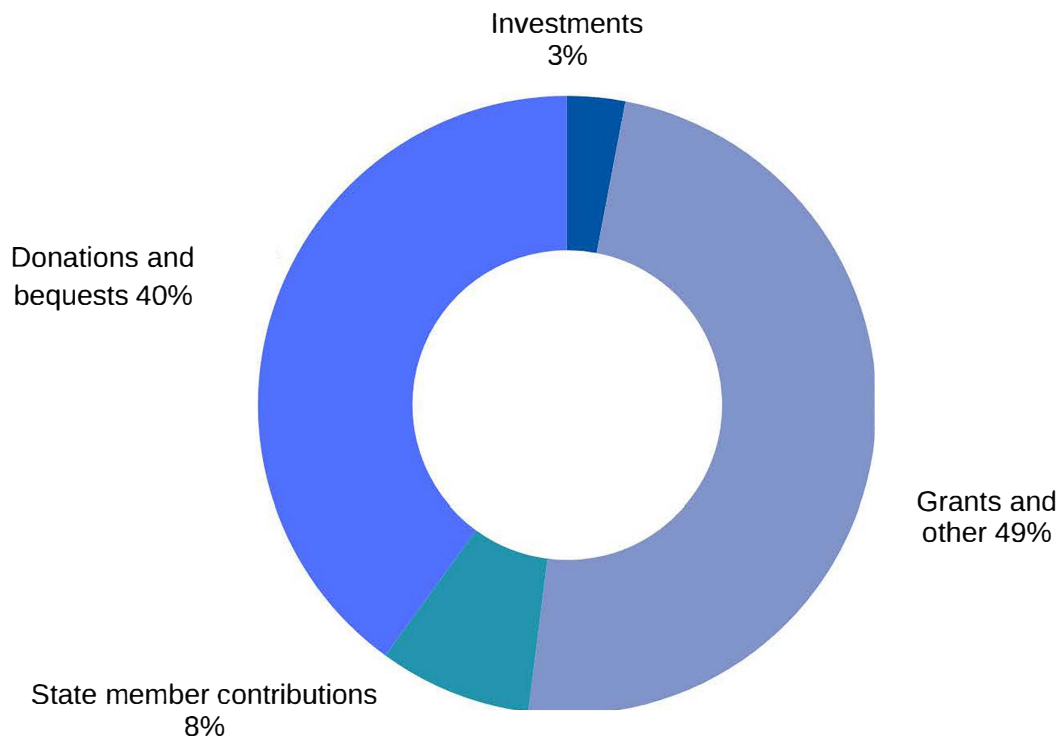


## Australian neurologists with expertise in MND

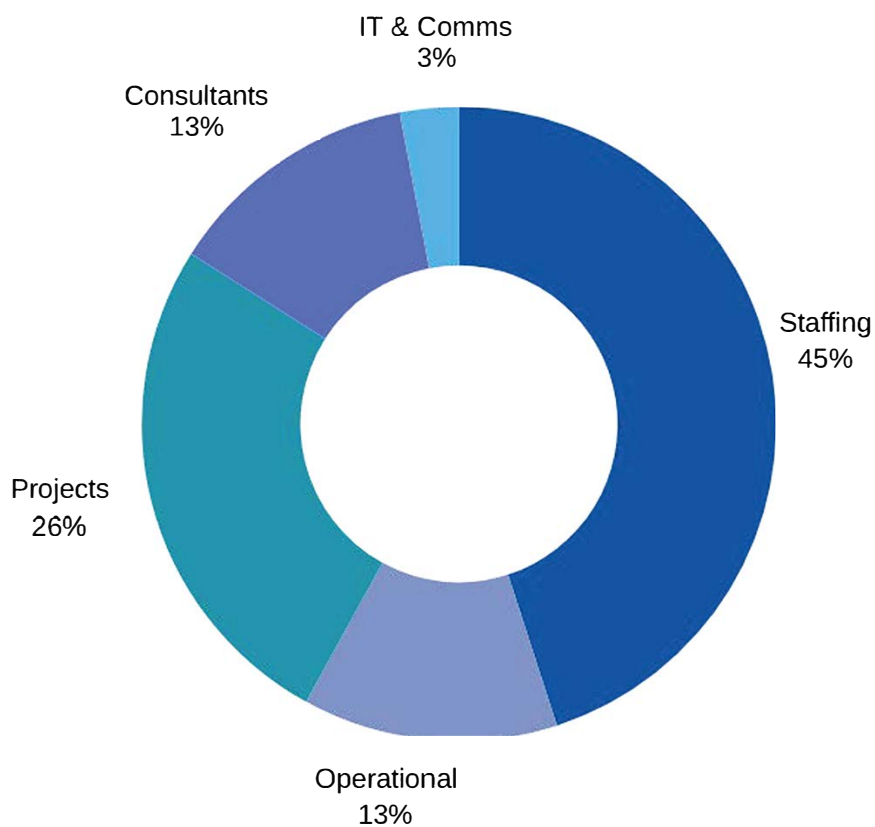


# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

MND Australia Income 2024-25 / \$1,975,491



MND Australia Expenditure 2024-25 / \$2,083,406





*New South Wales  
Queensland  
South Australia  
Tasmania  
Victoria  
Western Australia*

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