



## Supplemental information

Study title: Comparing Australia and New Zealand MS Populations Project

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### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

This project aims to explore the long-term effects of MS medications, also called disease modifying therapies or DMTs by comparing people with MS living in Australia and New Zealand, because access to MS treatment programs differs between countries. We will examine the links between MS medication use and other long-term health outcomes, including disability, employment, and socio-economic outcomes such as income, and educational opportunities.

This collaborative study is being conducted by:

- Dr Deborah Mason, a neurologist from Canterbury District Health Board New Zealand
- Professor Bruce Taylor, a neurologist from the University of Tasmania, Australia
- Dr Suzi Claffin, a post-doctoral research fellow from Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Australia

This project has been funded by MS Research Australia. No member of the research team will receive a personal financial benefit from your involvement in this research project.

### WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY INVOLVE?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you participated in a national prevalence study of multiple sclerosis in New Zealand conducted 2006, and at that time expressed an interest in participating in future research studies.

We intend to enrol 1400 participant into this study: 700 participants recruited in Australia and 700 participants recruited in New Zealand.

Ideally, you will have access to the internet to take part in this study. Where you will log on to secure website to complete web-based questionnaires.

There are two questionnaires: the **Lifestyle and Medical History Survey** and the **Cost Diary**.

- **Lifestyle and Medical History Survey:** during this survey, you will be asked to tell us about yourself (e.g. your date of birth, height, etc.), and about your MS history, including onset, symptoms, and treatment. You will also be asked to give information on your employment status, income, and education. This survey takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. **All participants in this study will complete this survey.**
- **Cost Diary:** collects information about the cost of MS for MS patients, their support networks, and support services. The Cost Diary is made up of six 20-minute surveys taken over the course of six months (1 survey per month for six months). **These questionnaires are optional for participants.** You will be asked if you are willing to complete the Cost Diary in the Lifestyle and Medical History Survey consent form (the first question in this survey).

#### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF THIS STUDY?

It is hoped that the information obtained from your participation in this study, will provide valuable information to assist future treatment management in people with MS.

#### WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Please feel free to contact Dr Suzi Claflin if you have any questions about this study.

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