



Multiple Sclerosis
New Zealand

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Multiple Sclerosis
New Zealand:**

**Leading
Excellence in
MS Care**



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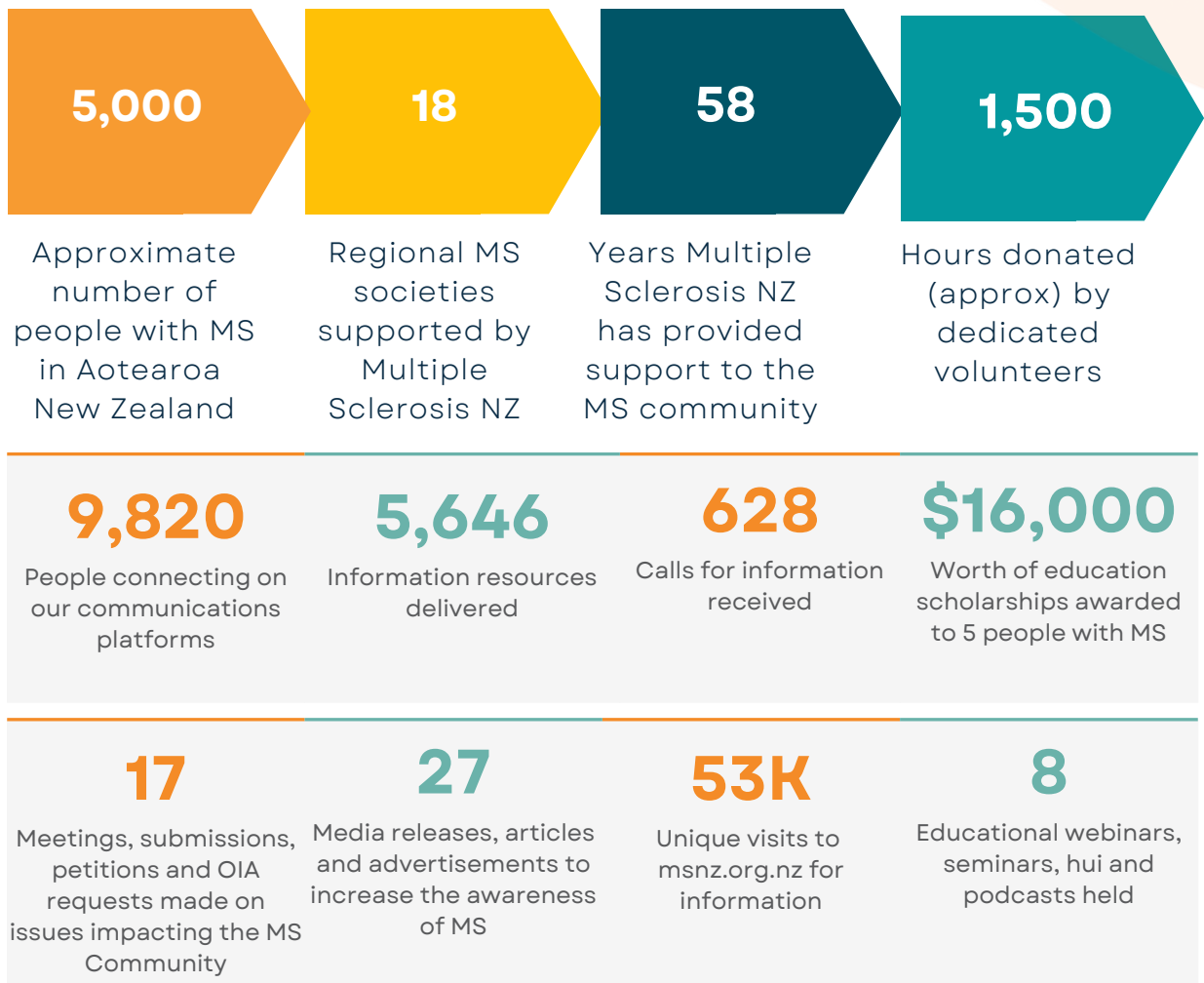
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Graham Walker at ECTRIMS 2025

Year at a Glance

Twelve months of sustained impact across advocacy, information, national leadership and sustainability, despite a more competitive funding environment.



Financials

\$871,535	\$956,155	\$1.279M
TOTAL REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET ASSETS
Deficit of \$75,002 Context: 12-month period (vs prior 18 months)	Operational and output growth, increasingly competitive fundraising environment, capacity challenges.	Robust Investment portfolio: professionally managed by Craigs Investment Partners

About Us

Multiple Sclerosis NZ is the national MS organisation driving nationwide change for people living with MS, ensuring better care, faster diagnosis, access to world-class treatments, and a stronger voice for the MS community in shaping policy and the future.

Eighteen regional MS societies travel the MS journey alongside those diagnosed, their whānau and everyone touched by the condition. As their national body, Multiple Sclerosis NZ strengthens their capabilities by supporting network-wide cohesion, delivering education, clinical guidance, governance support, and providing clinically approved information resources.

Alongside this, we advocate at a national systemic level to improve the environment in which our member organisations can best deliver their services. We highlight the challenges and needs of the MS Community, ensuring those needs are raised to government and relevant agencies and decision makers.

We also work closely and collaborate with the New Zealand Multiple Sclerosis Research Trust to promote their activities and ensure access to research and evidence-based information for the MS community.

Collectively, from local support groups to research and national advocacy, we are together, all working hard to deliver life-changing services, fight for fair access, and amplify voices across Aotearoa.

On a Mission

Multiple Sclerosis NZ coordinates and lead advances in best practice MS care by providing national leadership, advocacy, information, education and raising awareness. We achieve this by working with member organisations to meet the needs of people with MS, their families, and whānau carers across Aotearoa.



Priorities Moving Forward

2026 marks 59 years of the Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand. As we near our 60th milestone year with clear focus, strong foundations, and renewed ambition for the people we serve.

ADVOCACY THAT CHANGES LIVES

Addressing inequities to treatments and services which impact the health and well-being of those impacted by MS, driving meaningful change.

STRENGTHENING OUR NETWORK

Working alongside our members to build knowledge, cohesion, and collective purpose, we provide governance stewardship, clinical and operational leadership and connected systems, to strengthen regions and empower our workforce to deliver consistently excellent care.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Educating, informing, and building awareness of MS through powerful campaigns, accessible digital content, and regional communities that put knowledge where it matters most.

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

Growing a diverse, resilient funding base, strengthening donor partnerships, energising our fundraising community, and building the long-term sustainability our mission demands.

Together We're Stronger

Multiple Sclerosis NZ and our 18 Member organisations work together across diverse roles, regions, and perspectives, united by a shared responsibility for the wellbeing of the people and communities we serve.

As interdependent organisations, we work individually and collectively to strengthen the quality, equity, and impact of care for communities in Aotearoa.



Message from Multiple Sclerosis NZ's National Manager and President

Tēnā koutou katoa,

2025 was a year of both challenge and progress at Multiple Sclerosis NZ.

The impact of more than a decade of hard-fought advocacy is becoming visible. Greater access to disease-modifying treatments now means around 3,000 New Zealanders with MS are maintaining independence, function, and long-term brain health. The December 2025 Pharmac funding of subcutaneous ocrelizumab (Ocrevus SC) builds on this progress, reducing barriers to treatment and easing pressure on a health system already near capacity.

New research shows MS diagnoses in Aotearoa have increased by 67% since 2006, with numbers now exceeding 5,000, yet the scale of need is growing faster than the system's ability to respond. Built for acute and episodic care, our health system leaves significant gaps for people living with lifelong, progressive conditions like MS. At Multiple Sclerosis NZ, we continue to advocate for the needs of our community.

While changes to disability funding have recognised the diversity of disabled people's needs, the burden of MS on those diagnosed, their families, and whānau carers continues to escalate. As funding constraints and service demand intensify, MS organisations across Aotearoa are increasingly filling gaps left where publicly funded services fall short.



Representatives from MSNZ and partners Roche NZ and the NZ Institute of Economic Research meeting with Todd Stephenson, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Associate Minister of Health and the ACT Party's Health Spokesperson, calling for the funding of ocrelizumab subcut

Dorothy L Newman Scholarships remain among our most rewarding work. Five awards totalling over \$16,000 supported people with MS to upskill or change careers, with a further seven announced for 2026, reflecting the growing demand and need for investment.

Committed to providing reliable, up-to-date information, we launched a new website and new suite of online resources. Our Time Matters in MS campaign continued to grow, emphasising prompt diagnosis, timely access to treatment and information, and ongoing monitoring is central to well-managed MS.

Research continues to strengthen the evidence for exercise as a key component in MS management. In 2025 we endorsed MS Get a Head Start, an evidence-based, physio-designed programme uniquely created for those diagnosed. We continue to advocate for wider funding and integration of this programme across public and private physiotherapy services.

Community fundraising raised vital funds and national awareness. Highlights included \$72,000 raised by the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay through Bangers to Bluff, and \$36,260 from our inaugural Ride for MS event in Cambodia.

While we recorded a deficit for the first time in several years, sound governance and careful financial management ensured we navigated this without compromising services or outcomes. We are proud of the team's resilience and look ahead with confidence to what lies before us.

As we enter 2026, our 59th year, the need for our services both diversifies and intensifies. Continuing to unite and strengthen our network of MS organisations, we look to address the issues most affecting our MS community, and provide national guidance and resilience.

To our members, donors, supporters, staff, and volunteers, your commitment makes everything possible. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

Ngā mihi,



Amanda Rose
National Manager

Ngā mihi,



Neil Woodhams ONZM
President



Led by Lived Experience

Our people are at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that our mission is carried out with passion, professionalism, and care. MSNZ have a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and leaders who are committed to supporting people impacted by multiple sclerosis across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Those on our Committee bring their unique lived experience, along with their lifetime of skills and experience to guide MSNZ's strategy. Volunteering over 1500 hours collectively a year and participating at the forefront of many of our projects and programmes, providing peer support to member organisations and are our most valued ambassadors and advocates.

Two Emerging Committee Members bring a diversity of voice, ensuring the perspectives of younger people impacted by MS are embedded in governance decisions. MSNZ invests in their training as they start their governance career.

Our commitment to inclusion extends beyond the boardroom. Through meaningful investment in our communities, we look to create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, contribute, and be heard, because a truly representative organisation reflects the full diversity of the people it serves.

REPRESENTING AOTEAROA: ON THE GLOBAL STAGE AT ECTRIMS

In September 2025, MSNZ Co-Vice President and person with MS, Graham Walker and his wife Julie, travelled to Barcelona to attend the 41st European Committee for the Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS). As an active advocate with a strong interest in science, research and improving outcomes for people living with MS, attending ECTRIMS had been a long-held goal of Graham's. Attended by over 9,000 researchers, clinicians, and global patient organisations, Graham was invited to participate in panel discussions and represent the lived experience of New Zealanders with MS.



Graham Walker at ECTRIMS 2025

Scholarships Awarded

FIVE LIVES, FIVE NEW DIRECTIONS: INVESTING IN FAMILIES AND FUTURES

In 2025, five Dorothy L Newman Scholarships were awarded, distributing over \$16,000 to recipients who have made a courageous decision to adapt, retrain, and build something new – pursuing qualifications that open new doors, enable financial independence, and allow them to contribute in ways that work alongside their MS rather than against it.

We regard this scholarship as one of our most meaningful areas of direct impact, not because it is our largest programme, but because it reflects a belief that an MS diagnosis should not define the limits of a person's life. We are proud to invest in the futures of these resilient, determined people.

Seven further scholarships totalling \$17,000 have been approved for 2026, reflecting growing investment and need – made possible by the ongoing generosity of the Dorothy L Newman Trust and Trustees, whose support continues to change lives.



Ms. Dorothy L. Newman

Having MS has changed the way I viewed myself in the world, but over time I grew my resilience and recognised the benefits a positive mindset offers; building my lifestyle with space for MS within it, rather than around it.

The scholarship gives me the opportunity to follow a pathway I feel passionate about. I am excited to have completed a work placement at the Centre for Brain Research, and to be introducing Art Therapy classes at Mapura to the MS community, working in the mental health and wellbeing sector I have long dreamed of.

Without the support of the Society, this would not have been possible.

I am very grateful.

Sarah, Scholarship Recipient



Advocacy in Action

Multiple Sclerosis NZs has a proud history of advocacy that has led to meaningful improvements in the lives of people with MS. From advocating for the accessibility of high-efficacy disease modifying therapies (DMTs) to expanding access aligning with international guidelines, we've led significant change. Over 3000 people with MS now receive funded access to treatments, with earlier access than ever before, enabling people to live well with MS.

RESEARCH TO DRIVE CHANGE: INCREASING THE BODY OF EVIDENCE

Data in the health and disability sector has long been a sense of frustration. NZ lacks a national MS registry, resulting in data historically extracted from either outdated research or overseas comparators.

In May 2025, new research from the University of Auckland confirmed a 67% increase in people diagnosed with MS since the 2006 MS Prevalence Study. Numbers are now expected to be over 5000. The findings generated significant national media coverage, giving MSNZ a powerful platform to call for urgent investment in neurological capacity. Direct engagement with the Minister of Health followed, opening critical conversations about workforce deficits and equitable access to allied health services.

"It took nearly five years for me to get diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Five years of unexplained symptoms, endless medical appointments, referrals, misdiagnoses, and growing anxiety. Five years of navigating a health system that often felt more like an obstacle course than a safety net. It was a confusing, isolating time and extremely expensive. By the time I finally received my diagnosis in 2016, I had spent a literal fortune trying to find answers.....time off work, private specialists, MRIs, alternative therapies, and countless tests. And all the while, my health was deteriorating"

Claire, Person with MS



New Zealand's health system is ill-equipped to meet the needs of people with long-term progressive conditions like MS. Specialist neurological and allied health services are under-resourced and geographically inequitable.

MSNZ has commissioned further research using the Integrated Data Infrastructure to identify inequities in access to publicly funded health and disability services. This evidence will directly shape our advocacy priorities ahead.

REDUCING BARRIERS TO TREATMENT ACCESS: A WIN THAT KEEPS US PUSHING

Pharmac's decision to fund subcutaneous ocrelizumab (Ocrevus SC) as of December 2025, a quicker injection version of an already funded medicine, marks one of the most significant treatment access gains for people with MS in recent years. This outcome is a direct result of MSNZ's sustained evidence-based advocacy and strong partnerships.

For people living with MS, this means reduced disruption to work, family, and daily life, and restoring independence. It also removes longstanding barriers to treatment access, ensuring treatment decisions are made on clinical need rather than logistical constraints.

The impact reaches beyond the MS community. By easing pressure on infusion centre capacity, this decision improves access for New Zealanders with other conditions reliant on infusion-based treatments.

Currently advocating for 3 further treatments, MSNZ remains committed to ensuring every New Zealander living with MS can benefit from the best available therapies. A full range of maximising treatment success and uphold international best practice.

THE LIVE'S WE'RE CHANGING

"I am a single Mum of 5 so time is something I don't have much of. The impact being able to access this medication would have on my life would be significant. I struggle to find employment due to the fact I have to have every 6 weeks off work and a weekend to recover from the Tysabri infusion."

Anonymous, Gore

"Although I was diagnosed on the 1st of December, I was unable to start treatment until the 16th of January the following year due to the strain on the healthcare system. Unfortunately, I had a relapse which started a few days before starting my treatment, which may have been avoidable if the subcutaneous option was available."

Anonymous, Christchurch

"Now that SC injections can become available for patients it will also reduce the impact of nursing cares greatly on the outpatients wards. I work as a healthcare worker myself and I can only just imagine the pressure that a 6-hour infusion can put on the hospital staff. A simple 10-minute injection would be an incredible improvement in the quality of care delivered to patients."

Laura, Christchurch

THE TRUE COST OF MS: ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE SUPPORT

People living with MS face daily challenges that extend far beyond their diagnosis. They struggle to access timely and meaningful disability support, often being denied funding until their condition has significantly deteriorated. Geographically diverse service availability creates disproportionate inequities. Essential services like physiotherapy, which slow progression and maintain independence, are frequently out of reach. Home help that could keep them working and self-sufficient is inaccessible to many.

Meanwhile, their family carers shoulder enormous physical, emotional and financial burdens, often burning out with insufficient respite and little recognition of their own wellbeing.

"MS affects far more than health. As a full-time carer I know first-hand the financial burden of living with a chronic, progressive condition falls heavily on people with MS and their families. Additional care costs, reduced ability to work, and reliance on support services are often underfunded or inaccessible. This inequity has both immediate and generational consequences."

Neil Woodhams, MSNZ President



Neil and Erin Woodhams

Disability funding is an essential lifeline for many. However, policy changes and uninformed restrictions escalated service access deficits.

"Our social and tax systems are not designed to support people living with chronic, fluctuating conditions. They are designed for people who are either clearly sick or clearly well, nothing in between. There's no room for nuance, for invisible illness, or for grey areas."

Claire, Person with MS

Highlighting the economic and emotional burden of MS has been the cornerstone of our work. Alongside a 1,800 disability voices we called for flexible, needs-based disability funding and greater recognition of carers individual needs. Multiple Sclerosis NZ ensured the MS community was represented in decisions that directly affect their lives and ability to fund vital services.

We welcomed the 2025 announcement reverting to flexible funding in 2026 as an important step forward. However, the burden of MS continues to escalate. As funding constraints and service demand intensify, MS organisations across Aotearoa are increasingly stepping in where publicly funded services fall short, a gap that cannot be filled by the sector alone.

EXERCISE AS MEDICINE

SUPPORTING HEALTHY LIVING WITH MS

Lifestyle choices, including regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and reducing smoking and alcohol consumption, can significantly slow the progression of MS, improving long-term outcomes. Ensuring those diagnosed are aware of and supported to make these changes is central to our work.

In 2025, Multiple Sclerosis NZ endorsed MS Get a Head Start, an evidence-based exercise and rehabilitation programme addressing the growing gap in publicly funded specialist support. The programme, developed by Neuro Physiotherapist Gilly Davy, offers an accessible six-week online course for people with MS, alongside a companion course equipping health professionals to prescribe effective, individualised exercise and rehabilitation.



Amanda Rose, Gilly Davy, Rachael Hofmann

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT BEYOND MS:

NMOSD AND MOGAD

Following the recommendations of MS Brain Health, MSNZ approved to widen its scope of interest to include those with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) and myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody-associated disease (MOGAD) within our advocacy. These conditions are rare autoimmune diseases, related to MS with comparable clinical characteristics and a life-long impact. Acknowledging this commitment, alongside the NZ MS Research Trust, we hosted a public seminar on these two conditions with Neuro-Ophthalmologist Benson Chen.

As we progress our own knowledge we will further integrate these patient groups into our advocacy and information programmes.

National Leadership

Multiple Sclerosis NZ is a national organisation with a federated structure designed to support people living with multiple sclerosis and their whānau throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. Our approach is collaborative, ensuring that both national leadership and regional responsiveness work together to meet the needs of our community.

Our structure ensures that Multiple Sclerosis NZ can provide strong national leadership while empowering local societies to respond to the unique needs of people living with MS. This collaborative model helps us deliver consistent, high-quality support and advocacy across NZ.

"We are proud of our structure which has existed for nearly 60 years and continues to be a source of our strength and uniqueness with lived-experience and community at the forefront"

Amanda Rose, MSNZ National Manager

CONNECTING OUR NETWORK: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, COHESION, AND COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

Each year, we bring our regions together to build knowledge, cohesion, and collective purpose. Our June annual MS Conference united governance, management, and leadership representatives from across the network for two days of alignment, education, and peer learning. For many first-time attendees, it was a defining experience as they left with a deeper understanding of MSNZ's collective role and a renewed sense of shared purpose.

Subsequently in July, Community Advisors, employed by regional societies and fundamental to local service delivery, gathered nationally to advance their clinical knowledge of MS, its symptoms, and management strategies. Our meetings are an investment in the people who show up every day for those living with MS across Aotearoa, helping to build a connected, capable, and cohesive network.



MS Conference, 2025

CLINICAL LEADERSHIP: BUILDING A CONNECTED, STRENGTHENED WORKFORCE

Our Clinical Lead provides sustained, hands-on support to Community Advisors nationwide, building capability, reducing professional isolation, and ensuring complex cases were escalated and resolved efficiently. Having only been an established role since August 2024, Community Advisors already report stronger confidence in their practice. This work also laid the foundation for something larger, a coherent, equitable, and sustainable national MS community service framework.

Moving forward we look to enhance local strengths while easing pressure on our members, ensuring every person living with MS can access the support, wherever they are.



Community Advisors Meeting, 2025

Externally, cross-sector coordination with clinical neurological teams and allied organisations strengthened and significant in-roads being made within the health system.



MSNZ Clinical Lead, Rachael Hoffman (far right), with MS Nurses from across Aotearoa at the MS Nurse Australasia Meeting

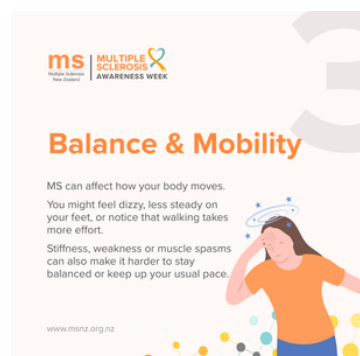
Information, Education & Awareness

MSNZ is committed to being the leading, trusted national provider of MS information, ensuring everything we publish is evidence-based, accessible, and relevant to all those impacted, at every stage of the MS journey. We continue to endorse and promote the International MS Brain Health initiative, supporting evidence-based principles of excellence in MS care and improved patient outcomes globally.

TIME MATTERS IN MS: EDUCATING KIWIS TO ACT EARLY

Multiple sclerosis is a lifelong neurological condition that affects everyone differently. Some symptoms are invisible – like vision & sensory changes. Others are more recognisable like balance and mobility issues. Recognising the signs early and acting fast can help protect brain health and delay progression.

Every year, MSNZ shines a light on MS during Awareness Week. Alongside a digital campaign, five podcasts featuring clinical experts and people with lived experience of MS brought the message to life across diagnosis, treatment, and living with MS.



NEW TOOLS, REAL IMPACT: HELPING NEW ZEALANDERS LIVE WELL WITH MS

In September 2025, we launched a fully redesigned website at msnz.org.nz, built to be clearer, more accessible, and easier to navigate for anyone at any stage of their MS journey, whether newly diagnosed, a long-term community member, a carer, or a health professional seeking information on behalf of a patient.

A new suite of digital information resources, covering specific symptoms, management strategies, and issues that matter most to those impacted by MS, were released. Complementing the well-established Living Well with MS resource pack, they delve deeper enhancing self-management and knowledge.

SHARING STORIES: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

We love sharing stories of inspiring every day New Zealanders, living with MS, who want to use their own personal story as a way to educate and comfort others navigating their journey with MS. Multiple sclerosis can affect anyone of any age, and it affects everyone differently.

Through lived experiences, people with MS are showing that a full life with family, friends, goals, adventure and futures is possible with access to early diagnosis, information, treatment and support.



People from the MS Community that have shared their stories with us

Community in Action

BANGERS TO BLUFF 2025:

A RALLY OF RESILIENCE, LAUGHTER AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT



One of New Zealand's most-loved charity road rallies, Bangers to Bluff was once again a resounding success, not only thanks to the \$72,000 raised for MS, but the incredible vehicle for raising awareness nationally for MS.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay, one of our most cherished partnerships, the event sees a convoy of “bangers” (cars purchased for less than \$2,000) on an epic journey on roads less travelled, from Auckland to Bluff.

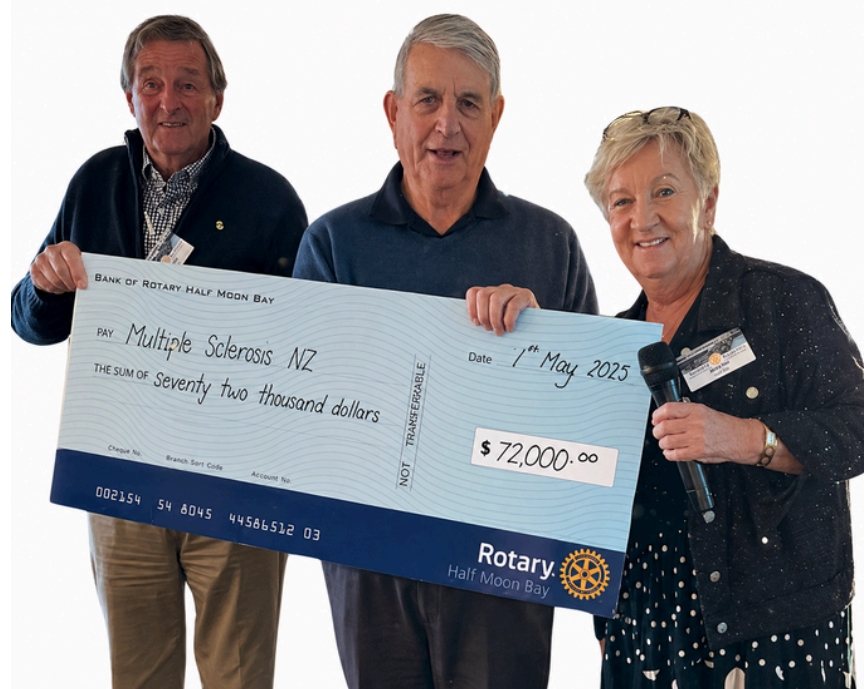
Cars decorated with eye-catching designs, MSNZ and sponsor logos, the event generates conversation about MS across the length of the country. A highlight of the trip was a historic visit to Parliament, where vehicles gathered on the forecourt to meet with Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health, providing a platform for us to engage on matters of urgency for the MS community.

Since its inception, the rally has raised over \$400,000, with \$240,000 directed to MSNZ and regional MS societies along the route.

Multiple Sclerosis NZ was proud to share **\$15,000** of the funds raised with regional MS societies who hosted the convoy. This investment represents a tangible return for the communities who showed up for this event, and a reminder that Bangers to Bluff and Multiple Sclerosis NZ invests locally, not just nationally.



Bangers to Bluff outside Parliament



Ian Thompson, Neil Woodhams and Marie Raos

RIDE FOR MS: PEDALLING FOR PURPOSE

In November 2025, MSNZ launched Ride for MS which saw six intrepid New Zealanders taking on an extraordinary cycling journey through Cambodia. Over seven days, the team cycled nearly 220 kilometres through ancient temples and rural villages, raising vital funds for MSNZ and regional MS societies back home.

Six passionate participants, supported by their dedicated guides, took on the challenge of cycling through the stunning landscapes of Cambodia. Their goal? To raise awareness of MS and generate vital funds to support those affected across New Zealand through national advocacy and local support services.

For each riding, the event had a unique purpose and meaning, whether it was to challenge their own or others expectations, ride in support of their local MS organisation and the importance of national advocacy, or as a meaningful way to support a cause close to their heart. All delivered beyond expectations!

This event was about more than cycling. It was about connection, awareness, and hope. Every kilometer ridden and every dollar raised brings us closer to improving the lives of those impacted by MS in NZ. We are incredibly proud of the commitment, creativity, and perseverance shown. Your efforts make a real difference.



Ride for MS 2025 Participants and Event Guides

Every Ride
Every KM
Every Dollar

It all makes a difference 19



ROXANNE'S STORY: DEFYING MS

Among the six riders was Roxanne, a young mother of three from South Canterbury. Diagnosed over 20 years ago, at the age of 15, Roxy knows the daily rollercoaster that is MS. While seemingly looking fine, what goes on beneath the surface, unseen, is hard to explain.

Just days before the trip departed, Roxanne experienced her most significant relapse in years. For many, that would have been the end of it. But for Roxanne, having trained, fundraised and dreamed of Cambodia, MS wasn't going to stop her. After navigating challenges in the health system and a course of steroids, her symptoms started to get under control. Ultimately, she joined the team in Cambodia, while quietly still recovering.

"One day, after hours of biking in torrential rain, I stepped off the bike and realised it was the first time my legs worked properly, and my vision was clear."

Roxanne, Person with MS

Managing MS in the Cambodian heat brought its own challenges. When a person with MS's body temperature rises just 0.5 degrees, this can bring on a pseudo relapse, or a temporary exacerbation of symptoms. For Roxanne, one of the symptoms was optic neuritis, a symptom that flares when the body overheats. On the warmest days, Roxanne rode behind one of her teammates, follow their line and avoiding uneven ground she might otherwise have missed. She took regular breaks and used chilled water to cool down.

Roxanne's story captures something essential about the MS community, that living with MS is not a reason to stop, but often a reason to keep going in ways others might not understand.

As our new annual fundraiser, Ride for MS will alternate between an international destination and a New Zealand location, ensuring supporters of every kind can find a way to take part. At its heart, the event is built on a simple principle that fundraising should strengthen communities at every level.

Acknowledgement & Recognition

Our Sincere Thanks

Our deepest gratitude to our donors, those who have left a gift in their Will, sponsors, volunteers, fundraisers, partners, and leaders whose support makes MSNZ's work possible every single day.

Funders, Partners and Sponsors

We thank the following organisations who provided generous support to Multiple Sclerosis NZ in 2025 through sponsorship, funding or in-kind support:



David Ellison Trust

Dorothy Newman Trust



Alliances and Networks

MSNZ is a proud member of Alliances and Networks which align to our purposes and strengthen our message:



Volunteer Recognition

Volunteers are a lifeline at Multiple Sclerosis NZ, bringing valuable knowledge, skills and lived experience at both governance and operational levels. We thank all our volunteers for the generosity of their time and contribution.

All National Executive Committee Members serve as volunteers, reimbursed for expenses only. Their time, expertise and dedication to governance excellence is the foundation of everything MSNZ does.

We thank also those who volunteer their time to our 18 regional societies, whose contributions extend our reach into every community across Aotearoa.

In Memorium: Emily Smith

We take a moment to acknowledge a beloved member of our team, Emily Smith. Emily gave 9 years of dedicated service to supporting the MS community through her work at Multiple Sclerosis NZ. Having started in administration, she worked her way up to the role of Fundraising Lead. Driven by her passion to make a positive impact she transformed our fundraising programmes, developed meaningful relationships, and continually strived to leave a legacy. Emily passed away in April 2026 following a brave and determined battle with cancer. She is dearly missed and we will be forever grateful for the impact she has made on our lives and the work of Multiple Sclerosis NZ.



Financial Performance

Overview

At Multiple Sclerosis NZ we carefully ensure that every dollar is carefully managed to maximise impact for people with MS across Aotearoa.

The 2025 accounts reflect a 12-month period compared to the prior 18-month period due to changes in our balance date.

In recent years, MSNZs position has allowed us to grow our capacity and capabilities to progress our strategy. However staffing shortages this year, along with a more competitive fundraising environment, resulted in a \$75,002 deficit for 2025.

The previous accounts also reflect a one-off substantial bequest received.

MSNZ holds strong reserves including a \$363K Endowment Reserve, \$363K General Reserve, \$484K Strategic Reserve and \$68k held for Dorothy Newman Scholarships. Our robust backstop and investment portfolio, managed by Craigs Investment Partners, is purposefully designed and managed to ensure long-term stability.

Summary of Audit Opinion

The accounts have been audited by PKF Goldsmith Fox Audit. All summary figures have been extracted from the full unmodified audited Performance Report which has been prepared in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not For-Profit) issued in New Zealand by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

The Performance Report for the year ended 31 December 2025, authorised for issue on 7 April 2026 by the President and a Committee Member of the Society has been audited by PKF Goldsmith Fox Audit. An unqualified audit opinion was issued on the Performance Report for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The presentation currency of the Summary Financial Statements is NZ dollars. The financial information presented has been rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

The Summary Financial Statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the performance Report and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding of the financial affairs of the Society as the Performance Report.

The Performance Report and full audited accounts of the Society can be obtained on our website www.msnz.org.nz or by contacting us directly at info@msnz.org.nz.

Revenue	2025	Jul 23–Dec 24
Donations, fundraising & other revenue	\$338,057	\$1,484,626
General Grants (incl. sponsorship)	\$115,167	\$239,248
Capital grants and donations	\$25,000	\$3,438
Government service delivery grants/contracts	\$299,369	\$467,716
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts	\$2,999	\$4,349
Membership fees and subscriptions	\$10,241	\$15,226
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	\$80,702	\$150,889
TOTAL REVENUE	\$871,535	\$2,365,492

Expenses	2025	Jul 23–Dec 24
Expenses related to fundraising	\$82,262	\$97,307
Employee remuneration and related expenses	\$371,596	\$474,792
Other expenses related to service deliver	\$427,734	\$641,666
Grants and donations made	\$35,948	\$424,956
Other expenses	\$28,997	\$27,970
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$946,537	\$1,666,691
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(\$75,002)	\$698,801

Balance Sheet	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Total Current Assets	\$262,275	\$530,988
Total Non-Current Assets	\$1,440,587	\$1,304,145
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,702,862	\$1,835,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$286,863	\$344,133
NET ASSETS	\$1,415,999	\$1,491,000

Reserves: Protecting our Future

In 2025 the Society created three reserves from the proceeds of a substantial bequest and our existing reserves.

The intention of these reserves is to protect the Society from the substantial fluctuations that can occur year to year in income caused by external factors outside of its control and to enable it to carry on business as usual when this occurs.

The Reserves totalling \$1,211,394 form part of our investment portfolio which is managed professionally by Craigs Investment Partners.

Reserves/Accumulated Funds	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Accumulated Surpluses	\$136,284	\$202,940
Dorothy Newman Fund	\$68,320	\$76,666
Endowment Reserve	\$363,418	\$363,418
General Reserve	\$363,418	\$363,418
Strategic Reserve	\$484,558	\$484,558
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$1,415,999	\$1,491,000

Our Story, Our Waves, Our Colours

In 2025 we embraced a new brand design. Our waves have multifaceted meanings, just like someone's journey of MS.

At the heart of our brand is a simple but powerful idea that the experience of MS cannot be captured in a single image or a clinical diagram. It is fluid, personal, and ever-changing. Our visual identity reflects that truth.

Waves are our central symbol. They move and shift, rise and settle, just as MS does. No two waves are the same, just as no two people's experience of MS is the same. Yet waves also speak to resilience and forward momentum; however unpredictable the journey, there is always movement, always hope.

The overlapping and merging of our wave forms reflects something equally important, that MS touches not just the individual, but their whānau, friends, carers, and wider community. We are all connected. We all have a role to play.

Our colours carry meaning too:

- **Orange** – energy, determination, and advocacy
- **Turquoise** – calm, community, and resilience
- **Yellow** – warmth, optimism, and hope
- **Blue/Black** – strength, clarity, and the honest realities of living with MS

Together, these colours tell a story that is neither clinical nor dismissive, one that is warm, inclusive, and grounded in real lived experience.

Our waves are more than design. They are a symbol of everyone in our community, honest about the challenges, and always moving toward something better.

Directory

President

National Executive Committee Members

Neil Woodhams ONZM (Independent)

Jan Hollway (Vice President, Upper North Island Cluster Rep)

Graham Walker (Vice President, Lower North Island Cluster Rep)

Prue Young (Upper South Island Cluster Rep)

Jan Campbell (Lower South Island Cluster Rep)

Jeff Silvester (Independent)

Ingrid Robertson (Independent)

Emerging Committee Members

Johnny Tramoundanas-Can and Prue Young

National Manager

Amanda Rose

Clinical Lead

Rachael Hofmann RN

Fundraising Lead

Emily Smith (until February 2026)

Finance and Admin Lead

Vereana Wheatley

Communications Lead

Louise Mckinlay

Administration Coordinator

Samantha Blackburn (until January 2026)

Accountant

Emerson McLaughlin Limited

Auditor

PKF Goldsmith Fox Audit

Life Members

Malcolm Rickerby

Dr Ernie Willoughby

Jim Millar

Gloria Hunt

Anne McAuley

Society Registrations

Charities Number CC10861

Incorporated Societies Number: WE/217036

Registered Office

80 Fitzgerald Avenue

Central Christchurch

Christchurch 8011

Postal Address

PO Box 1192, Christchurch 8140

Phone

0800 67 54 63 / 03 366 2581

Email

info@msnz.org.nz

Website

www.msnz.org.nz

Instagram

@MSNewZealand

Facebook

@MSSNZ

Twitter

@MSSocietyNZ

Contact Us



03 366 2581 / 0800 MS LINE



info@msnz.org.nz



www.msnz.org.nz