



## OUR ELECTION ASKS

FEDERAL ELECTION 2025

# NEUROLOGICAL & NEUROMUSCULAR HEALTH RESEARCH MISSION

**Establishing a strategic, focused research model to address the profound impact of neurological conditions, both on individuals and the Australian health system.**

One in four Australians live with neurological or neuro-muscular conditions, or neurological disorders.

The associated annual economic cost to the Australian economy exceeds \$100 billion

Our vision; a world where these conditions are preventable, detectable, manageable, and curable, is within reach. But to get there, we urgently need more research investment.

A dedicated Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Mission is essential to fund and coordinate the innovations that will make this vision a reality.

At a cost of **\$300m over ten years** a Neurological and Neuromuscular Health Research Mission within the MRFF would:

- ✓ Coordinate, action, and accelerate progress in neurological and neuromuscular research
- ✓ Revolutionise the prevention, detection, treatment, and care of neurological and neuromuscular conditions
- ✓ Reduce health and disability system costs, improve quality of life for those with lived experience and contribute to a healthier, more resilient population.

## NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently reported that globally over 1 in 3 people are affected by neurological conditions.
- Neurological and neuromuscular disorders collectively represent the most significant global burden of disease, surpassing all other health conditions in terms of Disability-Adjusted Life Years and Years of Life Lost.
- In Australia, neurological conditions are one of the five leading disease groups causing burden.
- The WHO Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders calls for actions to advance research that improves prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

## NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR HEALTH RESEARCH MISSION

Current efforts for neurological disorders are scattered across 25 uncoordinated programs and Missions.

This Mission offers a paradigm shift from and will foster coordinated efforts across neurological, neuromuscular, and other diseases, leveraging existing investments for greater impact.

This Mission will unite and spearhead efforts across previously siloed initiatives, energising collaboration and data-sharing for real, lasting change.

This Mission will build on the foundations of other MRFF-funded Missions and important neurological disease research investments.

This Mission will include rare neurological and neuromuscular diseases, to drive impact by enabling cross-condition approaches that ensure underfunded areas receive the attention they deserve.

## THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE RESEARCH STRATEGY

### Pillar 1: Prevent

Reduce the incidence of neurological and neuromuscular conditions through targeted prevention strategies

### Pillar 2: Diagnose

Identify and diagnose neurological and neuromuscular disorders at the earliest possible stage

### Pillar 3: Treat

Innovate and refine therapeutic approaches to treat neurological and neuromuscular conditions

### Pillar 4: Care

Enhance the quality of life for individuals with neurological and neuromuscular conditions to inform care models & drive development of evidence-based care

## RESEARCH ENABLERS

Programs of research under each Pillar will be supported by six Enablers:

- Advanced Technology, Data, and Infrastructure
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Diverse and Inclusive People and Communities
- Public Engagement and Communication
- Harmonised Efficiency
- Robust Governance

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**The Neurological Alliance Australia (NAA)** is a coalition of 35 not-for-profit peak or national patient organisations representing adults and children living with neurological or neuromuscular conditions or disorders in Australia, formed to pursue common interests including an increased investment in neurological research. We represent approximately 1 in 4 Australians living with diverse neurological or neuromuscular conditions.

**MS Australia** is Australia's national MS not-for-profit organisation that empowers researchers to identify ways to treat, prevent and cure MS, seeks sustained and systemic policy change via advocacy, and acts as the national champion for Australia's community of people affected by MS. MS Australia's Full Election Asks can be viewed at: [msaustralia.org.au/election2025](https://msaustralia.org.au/election2025)