

# MS SERVICES



## Our vision

Seeking the cure.  
Providing the care.

## Our mission

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of SA & NT Inc helps to minimise the impact of Multiple Sclerosis on individuals, their families, carers and the community, whilst supporting research into improved treatments and ultimately finding a cure.

## Our values

- Compassion & Empathy
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Honesty & Integrity
- Customer Focus
- Collaboration
- Commitment
- Excellence

## Our Services

The MS Society is a service driven organisation with a 45 year history in assisting people with MS and their families. We exist to serve our clients and our mandate is simple – to provide support where it is needed most.

## Accessing Services

In South Australia you can be referred directly to the MS Society by your neurologist, local doctor, family or yourself. The only requirement for receiving a service is that you have a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis. In some cases, the Society will also provide services to people with other neurological conditions. Contact the Society if you would like to know more.

To apply for a service type or to have an assessment from one of the MS Society health professional staff, please complete a Client Registration form. These are available at all MS Society office locations and on line. Once your application has been received and processed, you will be contacted by an MS Society staff member.

## **Services Available**

There are a broad range of services available. The MS Society offers nursing assistance through the provision of advice on medications and symptom management, physical support including physiotherapy and occupational therapy, social work services, respite for families and carer's and equipment support. In most cases our services are provided free of charge. Only some physiotherapy services attract a small fee.

## **Nursing Support**

The Society provides an immunotherapy/medication support and training service for people undertaking injectable MS medications. Our Registered Nurses provide face to face training, education and support to clients and allied health professionals as well as health counselling and hospital liaison. Phone contact is also available with nursing staff often initiating contact. Nursing staff are also available to provide information and support on symptom management. Our nursing service is provided free of charge to MS Society clients.

## **Physiotherapy**

Physiotherapy services are provided by specialist physiotherapists, personal trainers, exercise physiologists and physiotherapy assistants. A free assessment service is provided to all MS Society clients. The physiotherapy department also conducts exercise and rehabilitation programs utilising hydrotherapy, physical exercise groups, whole of body vibration (Vibrogym), Theravitals (exercise bikes), Yoga, and a specific circuit class offered at our Northern office. Exercise programs attract a small fee. Contact our physiotherapy department for more details.

## **Occupational Therapy**

The Society works closely with Disability SA to provide Occupational Therapy Services to people with MS. The Occupational Therapy Department provides assessment services and advice for home modifications, equipment prescription, symptom management and lifestyle education programs, for clients of the MS Society.

All Occupational Therapy services are provided free of charge to MS Society Clients.

### **Social Work**

Managing MS can at times be difficult. The Society has two social workers who are available for counselling support, assistance with home and financial matters, respite and other social issues requiring support. The Society also offers a Peer Support Program, which is coordinated by the Social Work department. There are no fees to MS Society Clients in utilising social work services.

### **Advocacy**

The Society is recognised as the peak body for people with MS in South Australia. As such, we are keen to advocate and lobby on behalf of people with MS. In some cases this is at a local level in regard to issues such as housing, but sometimes advocacy and lobbying requires political change and policy development. If you have issues or concerns that you feel affect people with MS, please feel free to contact our head office.

The Society also provides information and education on MS. Contact the Society for more details on our education programs and resources.

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#### **MS Society Head Office:**

108-110 Reservoir Road,  
Modbury SA 5092

Phone: 8396 0044 Fax: 8396 0184

Website: [www.ms.asn.au](http://www.ms.asn.au)

Email: [info@ms.asn.au](mailto:info@ms.asn.au)