

Information about Parkinson's for the media



Parkinson's New Zealand is the only national charitable trust in Aotearoa New Zealand providing information, education, and support to people with Parkinson's and Parkinson's plus conditions, their whānau, carers, and health professionals.

- Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world.
- The average age at diagnosis is 59.
- It is estimated that there are around 12,000 people in New Zealand who are currently living with Parkinson's. This number is expected to double within the next 20 years.
- Parkinson's is a progressive neurodegenerative condition which is caused by the degeneration and loss of nerve cells that produce a substance called dopamine in the brain. Dopamine is an important chemical messenger involved in the regulation of movement. Loss of dopamine results in the characteristic symptoms of slowed movement and tremor.
- Parkinson's is not just a movement disorder. People with Parkinson's can have other symptoms, such as changes in mood and cognition, low blood pressure and disturbed sleep.
- Although there is currently no cure for Parkinson's support and a variety of treatments are available to help with managing symptoms.
- Parkinson's New Zealand is dedicated to ensuring whānau have the right information, education, and support needed to live positively with Parkinson's.
- We provide home visits, phone and video call support, support groups, advice, advocacy, whānau meetings, referrals to health professionals, seminars, conferences, webinars, and social activities.
- Parkinson's New Zealand is reliant on grants, bequests and individual donations to provide its charitable services.

Get in touch

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