

## PARKINSON'S DISEASE: Just the Facts\*

- An estimated **6.3 million people** around the world have Parkinson's disease (PD).
- Between **54,000 and 80,000 Australians** have PD. Numbers are increasing 4% per year and will double by 2025.
- Over 8,900 people were diagnosed in 2005.
- **25 people** are diagnosed **every day of the year**.
- 1 in 5 people diagnosed are of working age.
- PD can affect adults of any age.
- **PD is the second most common neurological condition** in Australia. It is a chronic, progressive, incurable complex and disabling neurological condition.
- There is **no known cause or cure**. Medication is available to treat the symptoms

## SYMPTOMS & IMPACTS

Symptoms and levels of severity can vary greatly from person to person.

The **four major symptoms** are:

- **Tremor:** trembling in hands, arms, legs, jaw or face
- **Rigidity:** stiffness of the limbs or trunk. Facial expression may also become rigid and inflexible.
- **Slowness or loss of spontaneous movement.**
- **Postural instability:** impaired balance and coordination, resulting in falls and injury.

Other Parkinson's symptoms may include:

- Depression • Dementia • Memory loss
- Difficulty swallowing & chewing • Speech changes • Urinary problems & constipation
- Sexual difficulties • Sleep problems

- People suffer **disrupted family and personal relationships**, many withdraw from social and leisure activities.

- Parkinson's **impacts on employment**.

## The BURDEN OF DISEASE

- PD costs Australia **6.8 billion dollars annually**.
- The replacement cost of informal care provided to people with Parkinson's is \$350 million per year.

## PARKINSON'S VICTORIA: How we help

Parkinson's Victoria has been supporting and helping people living with Parkinson's for over 25 years. We provide services for people living with Parkinson's, their families, carers, friends and health care professionals.

**The mission of Parkinson's Victoria is to empower, inform and educate individuals** so they may achieve as full and healthy a lifestyle as possible, while managing the symptoms of Parkinson's. The donations and funding we receive are invested in services, programs and research to achieve this mission. We also work to educate the community and liaise with government and other bodies on Parkinson's related issues.

Parkinson's Victoria relies on the generosity of individuals, community groups, organisations and business' to raise funds to provide and develop services for people living with Parkinson's. Demand on services is increasing with 25 Australians diagnosed every day of the year.

**Community support contributes approximately 70% of our funding needs** for the provision of services. Recurrent government funding accounts for only 30%.

## How YOU can help

- Support the **Team Parkinson's Challenge:** Sponsor an individual or ask us about sponsoring the event. Phone: (03) 9551 1122 OR donate securely online: [www.parkinsonsvic.org.au](http://www.parkinsonsvic.org.au).
- Remember Parkinson's Victoria in your will
- Support our other fundraising activities and events. For more information visit our website.

\*Source: Access Economics Report *Living with Parkinson's Disease*, commissioned by Parkinson's Australia, 2007 and Parkinson's Victoria.

**Parkinson's Victoria is the peak body representing the interests of people living with Parkinson's.**  
For more information, visit [www.parkinsonsvic.org.au](http://www.parkinsonsvic.org.au) or FREECALL 1800 644 189.