

\$6.8 BILLION ANNUALLY. 25 PEOPLE A DAY. REPORT SHOWS HOW THE NUMBERS ADD UP FOR AUSTRALIANS AND PARKINSON'S

A recently launched Access Economics report into the extent and scale of the costs and disability burden of Parkinson's, has revealed the condition costs the nation \$6.8 billion annually, with 25 people diagnosed every day – or more than one person, every hour.

The report goes on to state that numbers (conservatively estimated at between 54,700 and 72,200 in 2005) will increase by 15 per cent over the next five years. The report identifies several key areas for a national strategy to address these concerns. These include: increased access to Parkinson's specialist health professionals; increased access to services in regional Victoria; enhanced employment retention and improved access to quality respite.

The statistics and findings of the report support the need for improvements in the health sector, greater public awareness and government funding to reduce the burden of the disease and improve quality of life for those living with the condition.

National Parkinson's Awareness Week 3 – 9 September.

This year, Parkinson's Victoria has themed Awareness Week with **Any Body, Any Age**, which focuses attention on the misconception that the condition only affects the elderly. Statistics show that 1 in 5 diagnosed are of working age.

"The week is an opportunity to raise awareness and support in the greater community for those living with this debilitating and complex condition," says Parkinson's Victoria CEO, Glenn Mahoney,

The week will combine free events with education seminars, a product launch and fundraising activities.

NATIONAL PARKINSON'S AWARENESS WEEK EVENT SCHEDULE

- All week: Promotional BANNERS flown from Flinders Street Station.
- Tuesday 4: POP Charity ART AUCTION & Cocktail Evening (6.30pm, The Lexington, CBD)
- Wednesday 5: RESEARCH UPDATE by Professor Mal Horne Research from the Howard Florey Institute (11.00am)
- AGM, including presentation of the Sir Zelman Cowen award by former Governor of Victoria, Sir Zelman and Lady Cowen (12.00pm)
(Both events at Moonee Valley Function Centre).
- Thursday 6: LAUNCH of Parkinson's and Lewy Body Dementia DVD & booklet (10.00am, Watermark Bar, Docklands).
- Friday 7 Melbourne City Loop train stations TIN RATTLE with Parkinson's volunteers.
- Saturday 8 Annual Recently Diagnosed SEMINAR (9.45am, Mooney Valley Function Centre).

SPOKESPEOPLE:

Nerissa Mapes: Diagnosed at 28 (now 30), founder of POP – Perspectives on Parkinson's

Dr David Williams: Movement Disorders Neurologist (MBBS, PhD, FRACP)

Anne Atkin: Ex-primary school teacher, art teacher.

Mis-diagnosed for several years, correctly diagnosed in 2005.

Glenn Mahoney: CEO, Parkinson's Victoria

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