

# NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AT A GLANCE



ARE ONE OF THE  
**BIGGEST THREATS**  
TO OUR HEALTH



CAN AFFECT PEOPLE  
**AT ANY AGE**



Are the leading cause of  
DISABILITY AND  
**SECOND CAUSE OF**  
**DEATH** WORLDWIDE



ARE RAPIDLY  
**INCREASING**

as our population grows and ages



ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
**140,000 HEALTHY LIFE**  
**YEARS** LOST



ARE **UNDER**  
**RESOURCED**

There are significant workforce  
shortages and underfunded  
community services

every year in Aotearoa

A lack of resources means



**IMPACT 1 IN 3**  
NEW ZEALANDERS  
in their lifetime



LONG WAIT TIMES  
FOR SPECIALISTS AND  
**DELAYS IN DIAGNOSIS**  
**AND TREATMENT**



Are the cause of death for  
**1 IN 5**  
NEW ZEALANDERS

## NUMBERS AFFECTED:



**1.3 million** New Zealanders suffer  
from tension-type headaches



**64,000** from Stroke



**642,000** from Migraine



**50,000** from Epilepsy



**300,000** from Rare Disorders



**37,100** from Traumatic Brain  
Injuries (TBIs)



**83,000** from Dementia



**12,000** from Parkinsons; and



**70,000** from Myalgic  
Encephalomyelitis (ME)  
& Long Covid



**4,100** from Multiple Sclerosis



**4,000** from Neuro-Muscular Conditions.

# NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE PRIORITIES

1

## **Address health workforce shortages** to speed up diagnosis and treatment

There are chronic shortages in neurologists, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychotherapists, speech language therapists and home-carers. NGOs also face challenges with recruitment and retention of specialist staff, as underfunding of the not-for-profit sector by Government undermines our ability to compete for staff within the wider health sector.

2

## **Increase funding for pharmaceutical treatment** to improve quality of life

Pharmac's complex decision-making processes, lengthy timeframes and strict rationing of pharmaceutical treatments is impacting the quality of life and in some cases, the life expectancy of people with neurological conditions. The Neurological Alliance is calling for full implementation of the recommendations from the Pharmac Review 2021.

3

## **Increase funding** for community-based care and support services

The majority of people with neurological conditions live at home independently or supported by family whānau carers and rely on services and programmes delivered in their communities. Shortfalls in health funding for community-based workers and historical underfunding of the sector means that our members can only reach a fraction of people who need support. Family whānau carers are also burnt out and struggling to access respite.

4

## **Improve data collection** on neurological conditions

There is no systematic collection of data on neurological conditions by the Government. Without data on prevalence and incidence of different neurological conditions the Government, Pharmac and Te Whatu Ora are not able to accurately plan service provision, workforce resource requirements, monitor the accessibility of services, or ensure equitable health outcomes.

Data gaps also make it difficult to model the social and economic costs of neurological conditions and creates challenges for neurological research.