

**'To Care
and to
Cure'**

Useful Contacts, Subsidies and Benefits

In this document you will find a number of key organisations to contact if you have MND or are caring for someone with MND. Please note: this list is not exhaustive so if you are unable to locate a service you require on this list, please contact our Client Services Manager to assist you with further information.

Useful Contacts

My Aged Care for Over 65 Years

An Australian Government initiative providing telephone and web based information and referrals to help navigate the aged care system. It identifies government, non-government and private aged care services available in the community and how to access these services.

Phone: 1800 200 422

Website: <http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/>

NDIS for Under 65 Years

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides Australians aged under 65, who have permanent and significant disability, with funding for supports and services.

Phone: 1800 800 110

Website: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible>

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Provides a range of services, specialised equipment and benefits to eligible veterans, current and former serving members and their families.

Phone: 133 254

Website: <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

Carer Gateway

Carer Gateway aims to make your life easier.

By calling Carer Gateway, you will be connected with a new Australia-wide network of Carer Gateway service providers. They will talk through what you need and help you to find local services and support to help you.

Services offered include: Help and Advice, Carer Support, Respite and Financial Help.

Phone: 1800 422 737

Website: www.carergateway.gov.au

PalAssist - Palliative Care Support & Advice

A telephone-based service that provides information about palliative care, how to access palliative care services in your local community and specialist counselling around issues of grief, loss and bereavement. The service is available Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Phone: 1800 772 273

Website: <https://palassist.org.au/>

Subsidies and Benefits

Companion Card

Supports people with a disability who require the significant assistance of a companion to participate in community activities and events by allowing their companion to attend free of charge. To be eligible for the card, the individual with a disability must require significant assistance with mobility, self-care, communication or learning, whereby the use of aid or equipment do not allow the individual to complete these tasks independently. Application forms are available via the website.

Website: <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au>

The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS)

The PTSS provides financial assistance for patients who are referred to specialist medical services not available at their local public hospital or health facility. Eligible patients can apply for a subsidy to assist with travel and accommodation costs of accessing specialist medical services.

Patients approved for PTSS will receive a subsidy to attend the closest public hospital or health facility where the specialist medical treatment is available. Patients travelling to access private specialist services may be eligible for a subsidy if the service is not available within 50 kilometres of the patient's closest public hospital or health facility.

Phone: 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)

Website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/travel/subsidies/about>

Centrelink

Centrelink delivers a range of payments and services to the Australian public during times of change. Payments which may be of relevance to people with MND and/or their carer include:

Disability Support Pension:

Provides income support for people who have an intellectual, physical or psychiatric condition that prevents them from working. This payment is income and assets tested. In most cases, your doctor will need to complete a section of the application form in order to establish medical history and the limitations caused by your illness.

Carer Payment:

Provides income support for individuals who are unable to work as a result of the care they provide to someone with a disability, who is frail, aged or suffers from a chronic medical condition. This payment is income and asset tested and subject to an assessment of care needs.

Carer Allowance:

A smaller, supplementary payment for carers which is not income tested and may be paid either as a single supplement or in addition to other payments including Carer Payment and the Aged Pension.

Bereavement Allowance:

This payment is provided to an individual whose partner has died. It is income and assets tested.

Low Income Health Care Card & Pensioner Concession Card:

Enables the card holder to access subsidised prescription medications and other concessions in the community such as transport. This benefit is income but not asset tested.

Mobility Allowance:

For those able to continue employment or volunteer work, mobility allowance may be able to assist with the cost of transport. To be eligible, the individual must work for more than 8 hours a week and have a level of disability that precludes the use of public transport. The allowance is not subject to income and asset tests.

Essential Medical Equipment Payment:

An annual payment to people who are experiencing increased home energy costs associated with the use of essential medical equipment such as an electric wheelchair or airbed vibrator. Those who require additional heating or cooling as a direct result of their medical condition may also qualify for this payment. To be eligible, applicants must be a Centrelink or DVA concession card holder and be able to provide evidence of the equipment or condition being claimed.

Phone: 132 717

Website: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/centrelink>

Telstra Disability Equipment Program

Can assist with a range of equipment and communication devices to enable people with communication challenges to access the standard telephone service. To be eligible, you must be a Telstra customer, have a disability which prevents the use of a standard telephone handset and have an application form signed off by a medical practitioner or relevant Allied Health professional.

Phone: 1800 068 424

Website: <http://www.telstra.com.au>

Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS)

The TSS subsidises taxi travel—half of the total fare, up to a maximum of \$25 per trip—for people with severe disabilities. Taxi Subsidy Scheme membership lasts for a maximum of 5 years. If you have a temporary disability, membership could be from 6 to 12 months.

Phone: 1300 134 755

Website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/disability>

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

MASS provides funding for medical aids and equipment to people who have a permanent and stabilised condition or a disability. The scheme helps people to live at home and avoid early or inappropriate residential care or hospitalisation. To find out if you are eligible, contact MASS or talk to your health professional.

The types of aids and equipment funded under MASS include:

- communication aids
- daily living and mobility aids
- medical grade footwear
- spectacles
- continence aids
- home oxygen
- orthoses
- artificial limbs

Phone: 1300 443 570

Email: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass>

Home Assist Secure

Home Assist Secure provides safety related referrals and subsidised assistance to people aged 60 years and over, or people with a disability who are unable to undertake or pay for critical maintenance services to their homes.

If eligible, you may receive a financial contribution towards labour costs for minor home maintenance or modifications relating to your health, safety or security which are required, so that you can remain in your home.

Phone: 137468

Web site: www.hpw.qld.gov.au

Life Circle

Life Circle can provide telephone counselling by qualified counsellors and also match you with a volunteer mentor who has had personal experience caring for a loved one at end of life.

Phone: 1300 364 673

Website: <http://www.lifecircle.org.au/>

Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS)

The QCSS provides support to help you maintain or regain your independence, continue living safely in your home and actively participate in your community.

Phone: 1800 600 300

Website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community>

Queensland Government Concessions and Rebates

The Queensland Government has a number of concessions and rebates for transport, health, seniors and cost of living expenses. You can search and apply online through their website. Each agency has their own eligibility criteria. Individual access criteria can be viewed on the website.

Website: <https://campaigns.premiers.qld.gov.au/smart-savings/#>

Commonwealth Carelink and Respite Centres (CCRC)

A national service, CCRC provides information about aged care, disability and community services available in your local area and advice about how to access these services. The Centres can also facilitate access to in home or residential respite care by arranging and managing respite packages for carers. The website contains an online search facility which enables you to locate services in your city or state.

Phone: 1800 052 222 (Business hours)

1800 059 059 (For emergency respite and support)

Carer Business Discount Card

Provides discounts on goods and services from participating businesses for carers who receive the carers payment or carers allowance from Centrelink.

Phone: 13 74 68

Website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/support-for-carers>

Reading and Library Resources

Title	Author
Legacy – A Ride to Conquer MND (Video)	Scott Sullivan
Tuesdays with Morrie	Mitch Albom
Vanilla Green Tea	Marie Williams
Motor Neurone Disease- A Family Affair	Dr David Oliver
It's Not Yet Dark	Simon Fitzmaurice
Our Stem of Hope- The Andrew Curtis Story	Linda Curtis
Against the Odds	Andy McGoven
I found My Tribe	Ruth Fitzmaurice
Overcoming A Loss by 1000 Deaths	Katrina Jeffery
Silent Body Vibrant Mind: living with Motor Neurone Disease	Peter Anderson
Recipes for people with swallowing difficulties	MND Association NSW
Dying to Live	Kevin Jordan
Every Note Played	Lisa Genova