

MEDIA RELEASE: Multiple Sclerosis nurse specialists amass in Wellington for annual conference 28th and 29th August.

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Multiple Sclerosis Nurses Australasia Inc. (MSNA) is the peak body for Multiple Sclerosis Nursing within New Zealand and Australia and they will meet at the end of August for their annual conference.

TePapa Museum is the venue for the conference on Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a disease that is the most common neurological disorder in young adults. The prevalence of MS in New Zealand is around 1 in 1,000 people.

MS attacks the central nervous system and causes long term disability. There is no known cure for MS but there are nearly a dozen therapies used around the world to treat MS. In November 2014, a review by PHARMAC bought about changes to the availability of funded treatment therapies in New Zealand; more powerful therapies are now accessible to people with MS.

This week's conference will cover existing and new ways to treat MS, novel symptom management projects, walking the minefield of social media in the health context and showcase MS nurse specialist research from New Zealand and Australia. Keynote speakers include Dr David Abernethy (Consultant Neurologist NZ), Assoc Professor Anne LeFlamme (Immunologist, Victoria University of Wellington NZ), Dr Debbie Mason (Consultant Neurologist, NZ), Dr Glenda Wallace (Clinical Psychologist, NZ), Louise Rath (Clinical Nurse Specialist, Aust.) and Hiranthi Abeygooneskera (Chief Legal Counsel, CCDHD, NZ).

The conference is also a marvellous opportunity to network and share antipodean experience in caring for people with MS. While many aspects are the same, the New Zealand nurse specialists will be looking to learn about the therapy experiences of the newer products to New Zealand shores.

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you would like further information about MS or MSNA.

www.msnainc.com.au