

Wellington Multiple Sclerosis Society Ops Report: May 2024 – May 2025

It has been a year of change with the Lead Community Advisor, Jo Dean, leaving in June 2024 and Community Advisor, Lacey Reedy leaving in January 2025. Lacey had been with Wellington MS for nearly 4 years and is sadly missed. She is now providing support to those at the Cancer Society. We wish them both well.

Philippa Scott joined as Lead Advisor in November 2024. She has a background as an Occupational Therapist. Maria Luisa joined as Community Advisor in April 2025. Maria Luisa has a background in Alternative Medicine for many years and more recently worked with WellAble, providing information and equipment, for people with mobility and access problems. She brings many transferrable skills to her role with Wellington MS. Maria Luisa will be providing services to the Kapiti Coast and Wairarapa.

Philippa will cover the Hutt Valley and Wellington.

Suzie Linton, Communications and Fundraising has remained a constant over the year, continuing to work tirelessly in her own role and to give advice and support to new staff. Thanks Suzie, we really appreciate the continuity you have provided during this transition.

Despite the staff changes monthly support groups continued throughout the year. There are 3 currently running on the Kapiti Coast, two in Wellington, two in the Hutt and one in Carterton. There are 343 people with Multiple Sclerosis on our database. Over the year we have provided advocacy in the workplace and with Work and Income. Assessments for Total Mobility cards are now undertaken by Waka Kotahi, and we have provided information and direction around this. We maintain good relationships with the hospital based Neurology team and community physio, Occupational Therapy and home support services.

Recently, a new group was started for People with Multiple Sclerosis who have been recently diagnosed. The demand continues and, as we have two Community Advisors working full time, we are able to provide more services and will be exploring what else is offered in the coming year. At a time when there are so many cuts in the wider community, it is good to say we have more, not less.

In the coming year, we plan to explore the need for a Carers group, develop closer ties with other Multiple Sclerosis Regional Society clusters, update our promotional materials (Suzie will speak to this in more detail) and develop a more formalised feedback system for the people we provide services to.

Finally, I would like to thank our Committee. Steve, Ross, Alarna, Nicki and Paul have spent another year giving so generously of their time and energy. They all have very busy lives but they find the time and heart to monitor, guide and ensure that the best service possible is provided, to People living well with Multiple Sclerosis in Wellington.