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Treasurer

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MEDIA RELEASE

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\$8.6 MILLION FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT

A \$8.6 million package for people with movement disorders such as Parkinson's Disease will boost specialist nurses and allied health staff across NSW to improve quality of life for patients.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet and Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the plan announced under the 2021-2022 NSW Budget will also fund increased services by not-for-profit organisation Parkinson's NSW.

"This \$8.6 million package will fund 15 specialist nurses and allied health staff across the state, improving access to treatments and quality of life for people with movement disorders," Mr Perrottet said.

"It will help ensure that those living with illnesses such as Parkinson's Disease can be connected with vital services locally to support them and their families, making a big difference especially to people in regional and rural areas."

Mr Hazzard said the package would also include \$650,000 in funding for Parkinson's NSW for training and teaching and increased services.

"This important funding will help ensure GPs and allied health professionals are up to date with the latest scientific research and international evidence on how best to treat the tens of thousands of patients living with movement disorders," Mr Hazzard said.

"Having additional dedicated nurse or allied health professionals working across NSW will support high-quality, local multidisciplinary care for people with Parkinson's and other movement disorders and hopefully keep them out of hospital."

The funding will commence with \$1.8 million in 2021-22 and total \$8.6 million over four years.

Parkinson's NSW will use its funding for:

- Increased services delivered via the Parkinson's InfoLine;
- Education seminars for consumers, GPs and allied health professionals;
- Capacity building support for Parkinson's support groups across NSW; and

- Parkinson's research and evaluation.

Jo-Anne Reeves, CEO of Parkinson's NSW, welcomed the announcement as a significant step towards improving the lives of people living with Parkinson's - the most common movement disorder which also features disabling neurological symptoms.

“People living with Parkinson's, their caregivers and families all require complex support as the disease progresses. That's why the Parkinson's NSW InfoLine is such an important resource - it is a central source of expert knowledge for the NSW Parkinson's community, as well as Primary and Allied health professionals.

“We estimate more than 69,000 people in NSW are currently living with Parkinson's so this additional specialist workforce is great news for them and their families.”

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