



Press release: 24 August 2016

Free Equipment for Townsville People with MND

Spark NeuroCare, the free local support service for people with progressive neurological disease, has partnered with Think Mobility to provide free equipment for Townsville people suffering from Motor Neuron Disease (MND).

Stuart, a local family man has benefited from this new initiative with the loan of a shower chair that will save him hundreds of dollars.

MND is a progressive, terminal, neurological disease that can affect any person at any time and there is no known cause or cure. Over 2,000 people have MND in Australia. People with MND progressively lose the use of their limbs and ability to speak, swallow and breathe, while their mind and senses usually remain intact. They have a life expectancy of two and a half years (source: www.mndaustralia.org.au).

“At *Spark NeuroCare*, we work with people like Stuart and his family to provide free support. This includes NDIS pre-planning, referrals to other services, assistance with navigating service providers, managing service provider relationships and generally being their point of contact for support and local knowledge,” said Ms Emily Mussap, Regional Service Coordinator, *Spark NeuroCare*.

Spark NeuroCare is a Queensland first involving seven not for profits who have joined together to provide free service coordinators for hundreds of local customers with progressive neurological diseases (PND).

Of the 35,000 people living with PND in Queensland, a significant proportion are unable to access the necessary information, support and care they require to manage their daily lives. This is particularly prevalent in regional areas.

“People with MND, Huntington’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, MS and Epilepsy are welcome to contact *Spark NeuroCare* for support. We are offering a free drop-in centre from 10:00am to 11:30am on 13/09, 11/10, 8/11 and 13/12. People and their family and carers can stop by for free morning tea and a chat with the service coordinators for assistance with their personal situation,” said Ms Mussap.

Spark NeuroCare is located in the Clinical Services Building at James Cook University.

Spark NeuroCare is a free service for eligible customers. For more information please phone 07 4412 7700 or visit www.sparkneurocare.org.au.

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About *Spark NeuroCare*:

The members of the *Spark NeuroCare* collaboration include Epilepsy Queensland Inc, Huntington's Queensland, Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc, MND and Me Foundation Ltd, MS Queensland, Parkinson's Queensland and Youngcare.

The proof of concept project is funded by *Spark NeuroCare*, the Queensland Government and from philanthropy. If successful, the current proof of concept project may pave the way to expand the service across the state in line with the NDIS implementation rollout.

Media contacts

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