

MS Research Australia would like to thank the following organisations for their support:

### Australian Brain Bank Network

“ The Australia Brain Bank Network is committed to supporting the wishes of people with MS by providing our expertise for tissue collection nationally for the MSRA Brain Bank to facilitate further MS research. ”

Prof Catriona McLean,  
Director, Australian Brain Bank Network



“ The NSW Government is proud to support the MSRA Brain Bank through the Office for Science and Medical Research. ”

The MSRA Brain Bank would like to thank the Collier Charitable Fund for their generous support.

### What if I don't have MS but want to contribute my brain?

People without MS can also donate their brains via brain banks linked with the MSRA Brain Bank. Researchers need tissue from people without neurological disease to compare with the MS brain tissue. You can register with the 'Using Our Brains' donor program through their website [www.braindonors.org](http://www.braindonors.org)

### Talk to your family

If you decide to become a donor, it is important that your next of kin agrees with your decision. Your next-of-kin may be the one contacting the MSRA Brain Bank after your death, so we encourage you to talk over your decision with them. There are no extra costs to a donor's estate or family.

### What if I change my mind?

You can opt out of the program after enrolling. You can withdraw your consent at any time by filling out the withdrawal of consent section in your Consent Kit, and returning it to:

MSRA Brain Bank Coordinator  
Brain and Mind Research Institute  
Room 723 Level 7 M02F  
94 Mallet Street  
Camperdown NSW 2050



### What do I do from here?

1. Call the MSRA Brain Bank Coordinator for further information and request a Consent Kit on 1300 672 265.
2. Complete the Consent Form, and return as soon as possible to:

MSRA Brain Bank Coordinator  
Brain and Mind Research Institute  
Room 723 Level 7 M02F  
94 Mallet Street  
Camperdown NSW 2050

**The Consent Form will contain instructions on what steps must be taken by your next of kin at the time of death.**

Thank you for your consideration.

**Professor Simon Hawke**  
Director, MSRA Brain Bank  
Brain and Mind Research Institute  
University of Sydney



For more specific medical information or to request a Consent Form, please contact:

**MSRA Brain Bank**  
Brain and Mind Research Institute  
Room 723 Level 7 M02F  
94 Mallet Street  
Camperdown NSW 2050

Phone: 1300 672 265

Email: [msrabrainbank@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:msrabrainbank@med.usyd.edu.au)

Web: [www.msbrainbank.org.au](http://www.msbrainbank.org.au)



# You have the brains



# ... to help cure MS

Register today with the National MS Research Australia Brain Bank

## Why have an MSRA Brain Bank?

Neurologists and Neuroscientists from around Australia agree the MSRA Brain Bank is vital to finding answers – a cause and a cure – for MS. The MSRA Brain Bank will be an MS-specific collection which will provide tissue to scientists for MS research. Scientists need human brain and other tissue, from people with and without MS, to fully understand what causes the disease. This will lead to knowledge about how to stop it.

Recent studies show that MS research based on animal models does not accurately replicate MS as it occurs in humans. This probably explains why despite improvements in treatment, we still do not have a cure for MS. The research that pointed to the limitations of the animal studies of MS was done using human brain tissue.

Research on brain tissue is already done in Australia. Brain Bank programs have advanced our understanding of Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. The results for MS will be similarly successful and thousands of Australians and their families will benefit.

## What is a Brain Bank?

A brain bank is a collection of brain tissue – often including other tissue such as the spinal cord – from the bodies of donors who have died. The brain is removed and stored using special techniques to optimise the research possibilities. The removal of tissue must be performed rapidly after death. The tissue will be available to researchers worldwide.

## Who runs the brain bank?

Professor Simon Hawke is the Director of the MSRA Brain Bank. The MSRA Brain Bank is a subsidiary bank that works with the Australian Brain Bank Network directed by Professor Catriona McLean who is responsible for the collection and storage of tissue nationally.

Professor Hawke is a Neurologist with a strong MS research interest and experience operating the UK MS Tissue Bank. Professor Hawke also chairs the MSRA Brain Bank's Advisory Board that includes a Neuropathologist, a researcher using the tissue, a person with MS, and a representative from MSRA and the MS Society.



## What measures ensure privacy and appropriate care of the tissue?

The MSRA Brain Bank must comply with the university and hospital ethics committees. Any donor information will be recorded so the patient cannot be identified, for example by using codes instead of names. This and other information will be protected by passwords and stored in computers and files in secure offices. It will only be accessed for research purposes.

## How can I help?

It's neither too early nor too late to consider it: younger or older people with MS are encouraged to register as donors regardless of whether they might die prematurely or from natural causes later in life. People with MS can help by enrolling to donate their brain and other tissues. Donations of money are also most welcome to help maintain this expensive but vital project.

“ To achieve breakthroughs, researchers need access to human tissue from people with and without MS. ”

Prof Simon Hawke,  
Director of the MSRA Brain Bank

For more specific medical details or registration guidelines, please complete the slip below or call to discuss:

### MSRA Brain Bank

Phone: 1300 672 265

Email: [msrabrainbank@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:msrabrainbank@med.usyd.edu.au)

Web: [www.msbrainbank.org.au](http://www.msbrainbank.org.au)



## Registration details

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female

Neurologist \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I have MS and would like to register with the MSRA Brain Bank. Please send me a more detailed form with the guidelines.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Now send to: **MSRA Brain Bank, Brain and Mind Research Institute, Room 723 Level 7 M02F, 94 Mallet Street, Camperdown NSW 2050**