



21 June 2015

Guy Barnett, Liberal Member for Lyons

## Motor Neurone Disease Day

Today, June 21, is Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Global Day, a day of recognition for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Motor Neurone Disease (MND)—a disease that affects every country on the globe.

MND is a group of diseases in which the nerve cells - neurones – controlling the muscles that enable us to move around, speak, breathe and swallow, fail to work normally. With no nerves to activate them, muscles gradually weaken and waste.

It is estimated MND affects more than 400 000 people around the world and takes the life of over 100 000 people globally each year, including more than 500 Australians. It is estimated 1900 Australians are living with MND, including more than 20 Tasmanians.

As an ambassador of MND I want to commend the efforts of those raising funds for research.

Popular fundraiser the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' saw money raised by more than 30 000 Australians, including many Tasmanians. As a result a \$350 000 per annum grant for the next three years was put towards further research into MND.

I congratulate and thank MND Australia and MND Tasmania, who for over 21 years, have proved an effective advocate, promoted optimal care and support options for those living with MND and tirelessly raised funds for research into the cause and, ultimately, a cure for MND.

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