



## **Motor Neurone Disease Australia Inc.**

**POLICY NUMBER: 5**

### **RESEARCH**

#### **Background:**

There is wide-ranging research being undertaken to find the cause, treatment and cure for motor neurone disease (MND). Some research may be controversial, create ethical or social questions and require significant involvement of people with MND, healthy people and funding.

Given the moral and ethical issues that surround stem cell research and other research proposals that could be controversial, or raise moral, ethical or funding issues, MND Australia has developed and endorsed a policy on research and MND.

#### **Motor Neurone Disease**

There are approximately 500 deaths from MND every year in Australia and at any one time around 1300 people are affected by MND. Thousands more - their carers, families and friends - live daily with its impact.

MND occurs in all countries of the world, usually in people over the age of forty, but there have been many cases of younger people being affected. Peak ages of onset are the fifties and sixties and men are affected more often than women in a ratio of about 3 to 2.

A broad range of research projects is being undertaken to identify cause, develop treatments and a cure for this disease. These projects are based on various theories and rationales, and involve a variety of research methodologies.

#### **Policy:**

***'MND Australia supports research which is legal, has sound scientific rationale and has the potential to bring us closer to finding the cause, treatment or cure for MND'.***

**Endorsed by MND Australia**

Signed 

**Ralph Warren (President)**

**Review date: 12 November 2008**