

Hon Dr Steven Miles
Deputy Premier and Minister for Health
and Minister for Ambulance Services
PO Box 48
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Dr Miles,

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I am supporting Parkinson's Queensland in their push to **#MakeParkinsonsaPriority** by improving access to health services for people with Parkinson's and for funding for two Parkinson's Specialist Nurse Educators.

There are major gaps in knowledge of Parkinson's Disease amongst health professionals, allied health, aged care providers and other service providers across our State.

This lack of knowledge creates major issues for those of us impacted by Parkinson's when we present to an Emergency Department, visit a GP, move into aged care or visit an Allied Health professional. This is particularly acute for people living in rural and regional Queensland where access to Parkinson's specific programs and services is limited or non-existent.

Having Parkinson's Specialist Nurse Educators who can provide training and education to close the knowledge gap would make a huge difference to those of us impacted by Parkinson's.

Parkinson's Queensland has been supporting people impacted by Parkinson's Disease since 1985 and aims to support the more than 18,500 people living with Parkinson's in Queensland as well as their carers and families, by developing and delivering services and programs that make a real difference to the quality of life of the Parkinson's community. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, these services are currently limited, forcing those of us impacted by Parkinson's to seek support and guidance by placing extra pressure on the Health Care System.

Parkinson's Queensland receives no recurring funding from the Queensland Government even though they provide services that have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the Parkinson's community and they continue to operate relying on the generosity of community and corporate donors while delivering services to one of Australia's fastest growing disadvantaged populations.

I urge you to **#MakeParkinsonsAPriority** and support Parkinson's Queensland by funding the Parkinson's Specialist Nurse Educator program.

This would go a long way toward changing the lives of not only my family, but the many families in Queensland impacted by Parkinson's.

I will **#UniteForParkinsons** to **#MakeParkinsonsAPriority**. Can you do the same?

Sincerely,