



Study title: **Prevalence of MND in New Zealand**

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Overview

The increasing burden of neurological disease globally is well recognised and will continue to grow as the population ages. This is particularly true of neurodegenerative diseases including Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

MND, the most prevalent form of which is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), is a progressive neurodegenerative disease affecting the motor neurones of the brain and spinal cord. Ultimately weakness in the respiratory muscles results in respiratory failure and most people die within 3-4 years of symptom onset.

Mortality data suggests that there may be an increased incidence of MND in New Zealand however accurate incidence, and prevalence data for MND doesn't currently exist. Prevalence data provides a crucial foundation to identify the scope of the problem, the individuals most affected, and the type and distribution of services required.

MND New Zealand Scholarship

MND New Zealand is a small not for profit organisation which supports people living with motor neurone disease, their carers, families and whānau to enable them to have the best quality of life possible. MND New Zealand is funding the "Prevalence of MND in New Zealand" project; a nationwide, point prevalence study of of MND in New Zealand using capture-recapture methodology. Demographic information including age, ethnicity, sex, geographic location, and clinical phenotype will be also collected. It is anticipated that this project will take place over 12 months. More information is available here <https://www.findathesis.auckland.ac.nz/research-entry/10480191>

The research team are pleased to be able to offer a master's opportunity as a part of this project. We are offering a \$10000 stipend (tax free), plus domestic tuition fees for 1 year. The start date is January – February 2022, but we are keen to appoint someone as soon as possible.

Expressions of interest are encouraged from postgraduate students with an interest in neurological disease, a strong academic track record and good interpersonal skills.

This is an exciting opportunity to kick start a research career and make a significant contribution to this rapidly evolving field.

Please contact Claire Reilly claire.reilly@mnd.org.nz for more information.