



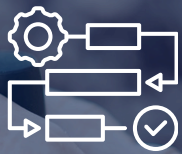
# Motor Neurone Disease

## Power wheelchair impact

### People with motor neurone disease (MND) can rapidly progress to using power wheelchairs

Clarifying how PWCs affect the lives of people with MND can:

- Guide people with MND in making decisions about powered mobility.
- Inform clinical and funding decisions.



### Method

Mixed-methods survey of New Zealanders with MND using power wheelchairs.

### Key findings



#### Timing of provision and activity participation

Receiving a PWC while still walking or transferring was valued and helped maintain independence.

#### Impacts on health

PWCs had a positive impact on psychological wellbeing, including feelings of inclusion, happiness, safety, and self-esteem.

#### Activity participation

Power wheelchairs enabled participation in activities, particularly outside the home and in the community.

#### Power seat functions and their impacts on health, activities and participation

Power seat functions were also highly valued. Early provision of PWCs, including power seat elevation, supported standing transfers, inclusion, and participation in life roles.

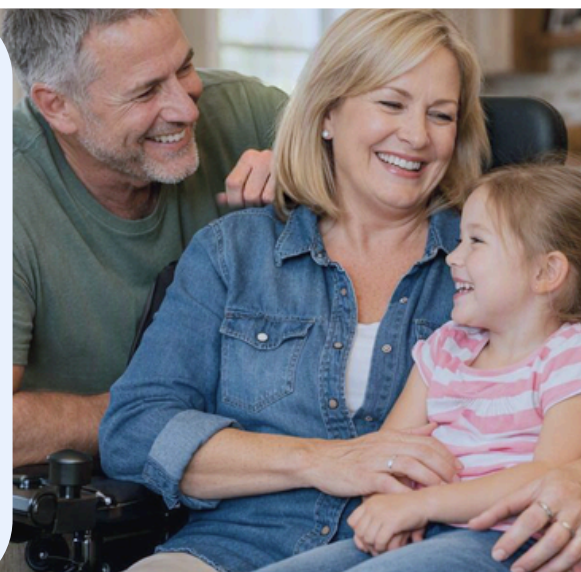
### Why it matters



Power wheelchairs had a **profound impact on people's psychological health** and participation in activities, particularly outside the home.

The **psychological benefits** of PWCs are worth sharing with people with MND

The findings **support early provision of PWCs**, including power seat functions.



Scan the QR Code for the full study

Perceptions of people with Motor Neurone Disease regarding the impact of their power wheelchairs on health and participation.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/N3XAAS/TQMTISGZYDUQD/fulltarget=10.1080/17483107.2025.2607055>

Infographic developed by Enable New Zealand