

# What is Parkinson's?

Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive, degenerative neurological movement disorder.

Parkinson's occurs when dopamine producing cells in a part of the brain called the Substantia Nigra die or become impaired reducing the amount of dopamine in the brain.

Dopamine allows smooth, coordinated function of the body's muscles and movement. There is currently no known cause or cure, however there are many treatments available to assist in managing symptoms.

## Symptoms

Tremor of the hands, arms, legs, jaw and face

Bradykinesia or slowness of movement

Rigidity or stiffness of the limbs and trunk

Postural instability or impaired balance and coordination

## Did you know?

More than 1 person per hour is diagnosed with PD

Approx 80,000 Australians have PD

PD can affect adults of any age

1 in 5 people diagnosed are of working age.