

Esme Tombleson was the co-founder of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New Zealand in 1961 and from 1975 was President for many years. She was also founder and president of the Gisborne branch and on the International Federation of the Multiple Sclerosis Society's executive. In 1987 she received the rarely awarded gold medal for distinguished services to Multiple Sclerosis.



In honour of her work, the MS Society of NZ offers the **Esme Tombleson Award** annually to people in New Zealand for the **'Person with MS of the Year'** and **'Caregiver of the Year'**, which are announced at the MS Society AGM. The nominations for this award are organised through the Regional Societies and co-ordinated through MSNZ every September.

## **ESME TOMBLESON PERSON WITH MS OF THE YEAR AWARD CRITERIA**

This annual award was established in 2002 to recognise people with Multiple Sclerosis who have demonstrated that they are an exceptional and outstanding example to the MS community. It is also an opportunity to honour our founder, Esme Tombleson, for the many years of valuable work and commitment she has made for people with MS.

ELIGIBILITY - The award for Esme Tombleson PwMS of the Year is open to anybody diagnosed with MS. The person does not need to be a member of a local MS Society; however, the application needs to be supported by a regional society by way of an accompanying letter. Applications should include the length of time the person has had MS, any achievements, and any other details that make the PwMS extra special. Any other additional material that you wish to submit, e.g. photo's newspaper cuttings, etc, can be included with the application.

WHO MAY NOMINATE? - Any member of a MS Society in NZ or any PwMS may propose the nominee.

## OBJECTIVES:

- To invite and encourage the participation of persons with MS within our MS Societies.
- To enhance the influence and position of persons with MS within MS Societies or associations.
- To create greater public awareness of the importance of active involvement of persons with MS within our MS societies.
- To recognise the valuable contributions of persons with MS within local, national and international MS organisations.
- To give MS Societies the opportunity to recognise the valuable input of PwMS.

## **ESME TOMBLESON CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARDS CRITERIA**

This annual award was established in 2002 to recognise people who are or who have been exceptional caregivers to people with Multiple Sclerosis (PwMS) and who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and devotion in their support. It is also an opportunity to honour our founder, Esme Tombleson, for the many years of valuable work and commitment she has made for people with MS.

ELIGIBILITY - Any person who is, or has been, a voluntary (i.e. unpaid) caregiver to a person with MS is eligible. The nominee does not have to be a relative of a person with MS and may be a caregiver to one or more PwMS. Children and young people can be nominated for the Award.

WHO MAY NOMINATE? Any member of an MS Society in NZ or Person with MS may propose the nominee.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To recognise the importance of the role of caregivers to PwMS.
- To create greater awareness of the importance of the caregiver in the lives of PwMS.
- To give MS Societies the opportunity to recognise the valuable work of caregivers.

AWARD COMMITTEE - The Award Committee will include the National Manager, the President of the MS Society NZ and at least one person who has MS.

AWARD - The award winner will be presented with the award by their Regional Society at a date to be advised.

PUBLICITY - MSNZ intends to promote the awards and winner on the MSNZ Website, Facebook Page and in other promotional material. The winner will be contacted before these are released to confirm their consent.

For further information and an application form see:  
<https://www.msnz.org.nz/scholarships-and-grants-2/>