



MS Research Australia

STATEMENT RE: PREGNANCY AND MS

11 July 2011

ABC Television news last week reported on current research into the affect of pregnancy on multiple sclerosis (MS).

It has been well known for some time that the symptoms of MS are commonly reduced during pregnancy. This improvement is thought to be due to changes in the immune system of the mother. After the baby is born, these improvements are usually reversed, due to changes in hormone levels, which are not yet fully understood.

ABC reported that MS Research Australia (MSRA) is supporting a research project studying MS before and after pregnancy. Researchers hope that an understanding of the cause of such changes in animal models could lead to strategies to reproduce these effects to treat MS in humans.

MS Australia – ACT/NSW/VIC supports any research into treatment options for people living with multiple sclerosis. We eagerly await the findings of this study to determine if it provides insight into ways of managing the disease.

MS Australia – ACT/NSW/VIC has recently produced a resource entitled *Deciding on Motherhood* for women living with MS, including information on what to expect during pregnancy and support services available for these women. This can be obtained by contacting us on 1800 042 138 or can be downloaded at www.mssociety.org.au/booklets.asp.

More detail on the research project can be obtained at www.msra.org.au

Ends

People with MS with questions are urged to contact MS Connect on 1800 042 138 and their treating neurologist for advice.

Media enquiries should be directed to Prue Guillaume on 0450 659 811.