



**HELPING HAND:** Multiple sclerosis sufferer Sean O'Moore believes the Getting in Touch survey will help Tasmanians.  
Picture: KIM EISZELE

## Research designed to make life easier

**SALLY GLAETZER**

A LANDMARK survey of Tasmanians with a neurological condition is expected to provide a breakthrough in support for sufferers.

It is believed about 2000 Tasmanians suffer from debilitating conditions such as multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's and spina bifida.

Tasmania has the highest rate of multiple sclerosis in the nation, and one of the highest in the world.

Support organisations are conducting this first-time survey to establish exactly

how many Tasmanians suffer neurological and neuromuscular conditions and to identify their current and future needs and gaps in support service delivery.

The Getting in Touch survey results will help lobby governments.

Sean O'Moore, 47, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis four years ago.

"They need all the information they can gather to decide what is the best way to go forward in managing people's lives," Mr O'Moore, of Moonah, said yesterday.

The Neuro Muscular Alliance of Tasmania will distribute the surveys via GP

clinics and its member organisations, including the MS Society of Tasmania.

Community forums will be held in February, and the surveys must be completed by the end of that month.

Mr O'Moore said he did not consider himself terribly disabled by MS, but others were not so lucky.

"I say that with trepidation because I hope I don't get any worse but if I do I will benefit from the survey," he said.

Mr O'Moore said the survey had the potential to help sufferers in regional areas.

The Getting in Touch survey is available online at [www.imc-link.com.au](http://www.imc-link.com.au)