

## Membership Application

When joining Scleroderma Victoria Inc. you automatically become a member of Scleroderma Australia. By completing and submitting this application for membership you agree to respect and adhere the rules of these associations.

Name .....

Surname .....

Address .....

..... P/C .....

Phone .....

Email .....

(Pensioner/Student Concession No) .....

I would like to become a *Sunflower Hero*  
(see details on the back of this brochure or visit [sunflowerhero.com.au](http://sunflowerhero.com.au))

### Membership / Donation

Annual Membership (Full) \$30 \$ .....

Annual Membership (Concession) \$15 \$ .....

Donation to *Scleroderma Victoria* \$ .....

Donation to *Scleroderma Australia* \$ .....

*Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible*

**Total \$** .....

### Method of Payment

**EFT** *Scleroderma Victoria Commonwealth Bank*  
BSB 063-215 ACC 1015 7937 REF your surname

**Cheque** *Made payable to Scleroderma Victoria Inc.*

**Credit Card**     Master Card     Visa

..... / ..... / ..... / .....

Expiry ..... / ..... CCV .....

Name on card .....

Signature .....

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. Please post to:*

Scleroderma Victoria PO Box 57, Melton, VIC 3337

## Why a Sunflower?

Many countries have adopted a sunflower as the symbol for Scleroderma.

People affected by Scleroderma often feel more comfortable in warmth, so the sunflower is symbolic as they always turns towards the sun for heat.

### Sunflower Heroes

A *Sunflower Hero* is someone who helps create awareness, promote and fundraise for Scleroderma Victoria, making a real difference to the lives of individuals and families affected by the condition.

The commitment is obligation free. You decide on when / what you can contribute to and the level of involvement you'd like to have.

For more information visit:  
[sunflowerhero.com.au](http://sunflowerhero.com.au)

*To become a Sunflower Hero, tick the box on the the form or join us online anytime.*

**Scleroderma Victoria Inc.** PO Box 57, Melton VIC 3337  
03 9231 3651 | [enq@sclerodermavictoria.com.au](mailto:enq@sclerodermavictoria.com.au)



scleroderma  
victoria



About  
Scleroderma



## What is Scleroderma?

Scleroderma is a chronic connective tissue disorder and is generally classified as one of the auto-immune rheumatic conditions.

To grasp some idea of this condition it is helpful to understand the origin of the word.

'Scleroderma' in Greek - 'sclero' meaning hard and 'derma' meaning skin. It is where the body's immune system does not adequately protect the connective tissues - that is, the tissues that hold the muscles, blood vessels, fat and skin together.

The pattern of the condition is also unusual in that it affects people in many different ways and the range and extent of symptoms may vary from one person to another.

In Scleroderma the tissue is replaced by a type of scar tissue called fibrosis. Because connective tissue occurs throughout the whole body, this condition affects many and various organs and can produce a wide range of symptoms.

## Aims of Scleroderma Victoria

As with anyone with a chronic condition, the opportunity to meet with others in similar circumstances is extremely helpful and for this reason Scleroderma Victoria was established.

Our organisation is run by volunteers under the following mission statement:

*Provide support to those living with scleroderma, their families, carers and friends.*

*Promote community awareness of scleroderma.*

*Support research into better treatments for all people with this chronic illness.*

## Why become a Member?

Every membership counts, we work hard as Volunteers to provide the following to our members:

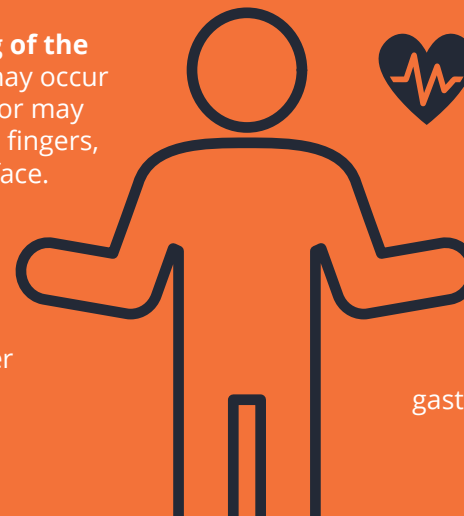
- Contributing to fund the Scleroderma Nurses at specialist clinics
- Maintenance of the of Victorian Support Groups
- Specialist Guest Speakers to provide valuable information at our Support Group meetings
- Organizing and Hosting Fundraising events
- Funding toward the Australian Scleroderma Interest Group (ASIG) for valuable research
- Additional Oxygen Concentrators to further enable community participation for people with Scleroderma
- Facilitating information seminars
- Awareness and promotional activities
- Quarterly newsletters to provide valuable information and research updates.



Scleroderma affects approx  
**6000**  
Australians



**Thickening of the skin** which may occur in patches or may affect all the fingers, toes or face.



**Internal organs** such as heart, lung and kidney may be affected.

**Stiffness** in muscles and joints as tendons become thickened.



**Digestive system** and gastrointestinal tract problems.

**Colour changes** in the hands and feet, usually on exposure to the cold called Raynaud's phenomenon.



**Calcium deposits** on fingertips and over bony prominences.