

Latest NHMRC announcements bring joy for some, uncertainty for many

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) congratulates all of the outstanding health and medical researchers awarded funding in Tuesday's announcement of grant outcomes by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and commiserates with the many who missed out.

Speaking in Sydney today, Dr Dan Johnstone, ASMR President, said:

"Independent analyses show that, over the last fifteen years, every \$1 invested into the NHMRC returns more than \$3 in health and economic benefits resulting in a \$23.4 billion net return to our economy.

Static investment into NHMRC over the last 5 years, has resulted in this extremely valuable asset, our health and medical research workforce, declining in numbers with many researchers across all career levels, being lost to the sector."

These losses to one of the world's best trained health and medical research cohorts, will have a significant impact on Australia's future research capacity.

ASMR urges government to take advantage of the opportunity to safeguard our health and medical research future and reap the health and economic benefit to Australia. Pointing to independent economic modelling by Deloitte Access Economics commissioned by the ASMR, Dr Johnstone explained:

"Implementing the ASMR model in which NHMRC investment is benchmarked at 3% of total health system expenditure will, as a conservative estimate, generate a \$58 billion windfall for the government."

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