Our advice indicates –

* a letter like this is more effective if it comes from your home address
* individually addressed letters to relevant Cabinet, Shadow Cabinet (from the list below) and your MP are most effective
* if you don’t have time to do individual addressing, send to your MP and cc to the ministerial email contact list below –

Dear

Every Australian deserves good health. The health and medical research (HMR) sector underpins preventative and screening strategies, shorter hospital stays, better treatments and cures. It is not an adjunct to the healthcare system, but rather the heart of it. Security within our HMR sector is fundamental to achieving better health for all Australians.

I am a researcher engaged in (information about your research and what you are trying to achieve OR a statement/personal story about why you support health and medical research)

Investment into HMR yields more than $3 for every $1 invested. But years of static Government investment into the Medical Research Endowment Account (MREA) of the peak funding agency, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), are beginning to have devastating impacts on the research workforce. At the end of 2016, 1 in 4 Australian researchers did not have job security for 2017. Between 2012 and 2017 the full-time NHMRC-supported workforce declined by 20%, which equates to more than a $4 billion reduction in net benefits.

Furthermore, this static investment is not in line with the rising costs of undertaking high quality research, or with the growing healthcare burden we are facing, and overall will leave Australians behind on the global stage.

**The very foundations of our healthcare system are under threat.**

First announced in 2014, the MRFF (Medical Research Future Fund) is destined to support research in the later stages of the discovery-to-translation pipeline. Its success must be fed by, and is dependent upon, the exceptional research supported by the MREA of the NHMRC. Incrementally increasing investment into NHMRC to reach 3% of total health expenditure by 2025/26 will generate $58 billion in health and economic benefits, lead to a boost in the workforce, and also lead to ongoing expansion to the science and innovation economy.

Independent reports by Deloitte Access Economics have time and again shown the health and medical research saves lives, saves money, facilitates innovation, increases productivity, grows the economy and mitigates escalating health costs.

Ultimately better health outcomes for Australians are at stake. What is the price of good health? It is proven that investment into health and medical research provides exceptional returns and represents an opportunity for Australia to secure its long-term economic, health and social prosperity. An immediate boost and subsequent incremental increased investment into NHMRC will ensure ongoing expansion to the science and innovation economy.

Yours sincerely,

**………………**

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| --- | --- |
| [Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au) | Shadow Treasurer |
| [jim.chalmers.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:jim.chalmers.MP@aph.gov.au) | Shadow Minister for Finance |
| [Julie.Collins.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Julie.Collins.MP@aph.gov.au) | Shadow Minister for Ageing and Mental Health |
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| [Bill.Shorten.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Bill.Shorten.MP@aph.gov.au) | Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander |
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