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Dr Roger Yazbek
President
Australian Society for Medical Research

Dear Dr Yazbek,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Australian Society for Medical Research's 2019 federal election asks. The Australian Greens believe that health should be treated as an investment, not a cost, and that Australia should be one of the top investors in the world in research and development.

We have recently released our federal election policies for both [health](#) and [research](#) which both include significant new investments in these important areas. Our response to your specific election asks is below.

Invest 3% of total health expenditure on health and medical research

The Greens strongly support great investment in health research, including an additional investment in the National Health and Medical Research Council. We will invest \$2.557 Billion in the Australia Research Council, National Health & Medical Research Council, and Cooperative Research Centres over the next decade, including \$1,036 Billion in the NHMRC. We are open to including a target to lift expenditure on health and medical research to 3% of total health expenditure.

Commit to full capitalisation of the MRFF

The Greens supported the establishment of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) which when fully capitalised at \$20 billion a year will contribute \$1 billion per annum to health and medical research. The Australian Greens support the full capitalisation of the Medical Research Future Fund as set out in the forward estimates and recently released Commonwealth Budget.

We know that funds allocated from the MRFF will help provide the essential resources to progress medical breakthroughs.

We will commit to providing \$1.054 billion to promote health and medical research by supporting the maintenance and disbursement of the Medical Research Future Fund; funding four new integrated health research centres; and increasing funding for health and medical research.

Protect integrity of peer review for research funding

The Australian Greens believe that the scientific principles and practise of independent, peer-reviewed research is essential to the creation of high quality knowledge and must not be compromised. We support your calls for all decisions to award public funds to research only following an open call for applications, with clear assessment criteria, category descriptors and a realistic deadline, and a rigorous and transparent process of independent expert review of applications.



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We would also support the removal any political interference from the awarding of research funds and increased transparency around how funding initiatives align with the MRFF Strategies and Priorities.

Support the office of the NHMRC

The Greens would support greater oversight and transparency of the MRFF disbursement process.

The Australian Greens will provide continued strong support for new discoveries through the National Health and Medical Research Council and have committed to an additional investment of \$2.557 Billion for the Australia Research Council, National Health & Medical Research Council, and Cooperative Research Centres over the next decade, With \$1,036.6 Billion in new funding to the NHMRC, including \$345.1 million over the forwards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the ASMR's election priorities.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale
Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria

