



Budget Policy Division
Department of the Treasury
Email: prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au

21st September 2022

Re: Pre-Budget Submission

Basic and discovery research supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant schemes has been severely compromised by static Government investment for over a decade.

As a result, the health and medical research pipeline, from discovery to innovation, is in jeopardy.

Bold and sustainable new investment into NHMRC grant schemes is urgently needed and we call on Treasury to act on its own advice from the 2021 *Intergenerational Report* to address this critical insufficiency by:

- immediately doubling annual investment into NHMRC grant schemes in the form of an additional \$923 million to drive basic and clinical discovery research toward healthcare innovations.
- increasing the allocation of Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) return on investment to at least the promised \$1 billion annually to facilitate the translation of NHMRC-funded discovery research.
- committing to long-term sustainable investment into health and medical research through incremental increases in annual investment over the next decade to 3% of Total Federal Health Expenditure, as recommended in the 2012 McKeon Review.

Time and time again the health and medical research sector has delivered health, social and economic returns for the nation. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the health and medical research workforce demonstrated its adaptability, resourcefulness and essential value to the health and economic security of Australia. During the pandemic, the unprecedented investment by the Australian people through Government expenditure was testament to what can be achieved if adequate resources and support are made available to address health crises.

With bold Government support through investment in NHMRC grant schemes, the health and medical research sector will drive economic growth, reduce healthcare costs and burden and enable Australians to prosper. A healthy and equitable Australia is at stake.

Yours sincerely,

A/Prof Tony Kenna
President

Dr Emily Colvin
President-Elect

Dr Ryan Davis
Immediate Past President