

October 20, 2022

To: Members of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

We write as an alliance of advocates for, stakeholders in the health and medical research sector concerned for the future of Australia's healthcare system. Our community deserves the best possible healthcare in a system where policy and practice is underpinned by the evidence-based research the health and medical research sector provides.

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC)-funded research has been severely compromised by static investment over the last decade.

As a result, the discovery research that supports all translation to healthcare innovation and patient care is in jeopardy!

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. The unprecedented investment by the Australian people through Government expenditure is testament to what can be achieved if adequate resources and support are made available to address health crises.

We call on Government, Opposition and cross bench to acknowledge the role of health and medical research in healthcare and adopt a non-partisan policy in which health and medical research is embedded as an integral and enduring part of the system, not an optional extra.

Time is of the essence and we implore you our political leaders to urgently act on the advice of Treasury's 2021 Intergenerational Report to address this critical situation by collectively committing to:

- a non-partisan policy reform that embeds health and medical research as an integral component of the healthcare system
- an immediate increase in annual investment into NHMRC and ARC benchmarked to indexation
- increasing the annual allocation of MRFF return on investments to the promised \$1b
- sustainable investment into health and medical research by incrementally increasing annual investment to 3% of Total Federal Health Expenditure over the next decade, as recommended in the 2012 McKeon Review

Without action the Australian health and medical research sector faces continued substantial decline and the ability to deliver Australian solutions to current and emerging health challenges will be compromised or lost.

Yours faithfully,



Associate Professor Tony Kenna
President ASMR on behalf of the Alliance



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS



ANZCA FPM

Affiliate Members

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Australasian College of Dermatologists
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