



PRESS RELEASE

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A long way to go for medical research! ASMR sounds a warning note.

The Prime Minister today announced details of Backing Australia's Ability – Building our Future through Science and Innovation. The package totalling \$5.3 billion over seven years from 2004-05, contained little joy for Australia's Health and Medical Research community.

Associate Professor Andrew Sinclair, speaking today on behalf of The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) said -

"The Government is to be congratulated for recognising and addressing some of the needs of independent research institutes by providing infrastructure funding of \$200 million over seven years. This is a positive step for the Health and Medical Research community".

Sounding a warning note, Associate Professor Sinclair went on to say -

"Australian Health & Medical Research delivers Exceptional Returns: \$5 for every \$1 invested. While we welcome \$200 million for institute infrastructure, this is a long way from the additional \$1 billion dollars required to maintain the current hard won momentum in Australian Health and Medical Research"

Failure to increase investment will result in Australia lagging further behind other OECD countries and diminish our ability to deal with the health and economic demands of the coming decades.

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