



PRESS RELEASE

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Call for an additional \$1 billion for Australian Health and Medical Research

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) today renewed its call to the Federal Government for an additional \$1 billion support for Australian Health and Medical Research phased in over the five years beyond 2004/05.

ASMR's President, A/Prof Andrew Sinclair today said -

“The exceptional returns from Australian health and medical research, in terms of better health and economic outcomes, are clearly documented in the 2003 Access Economics Report, “Exceptional Returns, The Value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia”.

Welcoming recent collaborative initiatives between the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Education, Science and Training aimed at encouraging innovation in research, A/Prof Sinclair went on to say –

“National Research Priorities in health and medical research will not be achieved without an ongoing commitment to new, additional funding. Australia has an excellent track record, our researchers are world leaders but we rank at the lower end of the OECD spectrum for health and medical research investment. Public sector funding is declining by international standards”.

A/Prof Sinclair went on to urge the Federal Government to embrace the opportunity to invest an additional \$1 billion in health and medical research, an investment where, historically –

every dollar spent on health R&D returns at least \$5 in national economic benefit.

A/Prof Sinclair said, “We look forward to a positive outcome from the current Investment Review of Health and Medical Research”

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“Exceptional Returns – The Value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia” is available from <http://www.asmr.org.au/general/Except.pdf>

