



Media Release

Australia's health is in jeopardy without further investment in medical research.

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) congratulates the federal government on the commissioning and release of the Investment Review of Health and Medical Research. ASMR's Immediate Past President, Associate Professor Andrew Sinclair said "The review endorses the Howard government's decision to increase medical research investment in 1999, but also comes with a warning. Without further medical research investment Australia will not compete internationally and risks a decline in health standards and knowledge based jobs."

The review clearly shows that investment in medical research returns benefits to the economy and promotes a healthy Australia. "The Access Economics Report, Exceptional Returns, The Value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia, commissioned by the ASMR in 2003, found that for every \$1 invested in health and medical research, \$5 is returned to the Australian economy.

A/Prof Sinclair said, "Further investment from the federal government will ensure Australia remains internationally competitive. ASMR also welcomes the opportunity to work with government to break down the barriers for medical research investment from industry and philanthropic sectors."

The Government's Intergenerational Report of 2002 highlights a looming health and economic crisis linked to an aging population and the consequent alarming increase in the prevalence of diseases including, heart failure, diabetes, cancer and dementia. There are also significant challenges ahead with regard to indigenous health. A vibrant medical research sector is vital to health advances and to avoid cost blow-outs in these areas.

Professor Andrew Sinclair
ASMR immediate past President
0438 646 020

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