



The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR), through its core membership of medical research scientists, affiliations with specialist societies, medical colleges and foundation groups represents **113,500 Australians**

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Dr Peter O'Loughlin, (President ASMR), said today

“The ABC plays an essential role in the communication and analysis of scientific, technological and health-related issues and events. These issues include some of the most important facing Australia in the 21st century”

Strong representation of science in the media is necessary for -

- **Public** understanding
- **Informed policy** on innovation, technology, environment and health
- **Recruitment** and retention of young scientists

Two major reports currently before the Government, the Batterham Review and the Innovation Summit Implementation Group highlight the importance of improving the awareness amongst Australians of science, technology and innovation. *For those who are not science professionals themselves the media may be the only source of information available.*

ASMR recommends that:

- 1. The ABC maintains a leading role in the broadcast coverage of science, technology and health issues.**
- 2. This role requires as a minimum a capacity for specialised news and investigative reporting and ideally a capacity for the production of feature-documentary programs for radio and television.**
- 3. To meet this goal the ABC should retain journalists, researchers and producers with specialised expertise in the analysis of scientific, technical and health issues.**

Awareness of advances in science and technology is essential for Australians to make informed contributions to public debate in areas such as resource allocation and economic development, or the development of the law and regulatory mechanisms.

For further information, contact

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