

# the Australian Society for Medical Research



Newsletters, News and Events

## Media Releases

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Australians believe funding medical research is more important than the Olympics & majority would pay more tax if it were to support research

Medical Research Week 28 May – 5 June

Melbourne, Australia 30 May 1999 – A majority of Australians surveyed in a recent Newspoll, considered medical research funding to be a lot more important than funding for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The recent Newspoll commissioned by the Australian Society for Medical Research and Australian pharmaceutical research company AMRAD Corporation Limited, was released today to mark the ASMR Medical Research Week.

Other attitudes and perceptions toward medical research that were revealed in the Newspoll results included;

? Approximately half of Australians surveyed, aged 18 and over, believe that too little is spent on medical research in Australia.

? Approximately 70% of people surveyed said they are willing to pay more tax if the money would only be spent on medical research in Australia.

? Australians overwhelmingly believed that increased funding on medical research would have a positive impact on Australia.

? More than eight in ten surveyed agree that a rise in funding will generate jobs and wealth for Australia.

? Approximately nine in ten surveyed agree that increased government funding will encourage the best researchers to remain in Australia and will also result in improved health for Australians.

“It appears that the federal government is on to a winner,” said Dr Matthew Gillespie, President of the Australian Society for Medical Research. “The Newspoll results show Australians are highly supportive of medical research, therefore the move by the federal government to

double medical research funding, announced in the May budget, is likely to be met with widespread approval.”

Dr Gillespie said, “it was a surprise to us to see that the majority of Australians rated medical research as more important than funding the Sydney Olympics. I think most Australians would agree that both are important and worthwhile in their own right, but it’s encouraging to know that people can see the long term benefits and value of medical research.”

Medical Research Week is a National event, with the aim of highlighting the importance of Australian medical research.

Mr John Grace, Managing Director of AMRAD said, “Medical research and the development of new discoveries is a race. The fact that this country has four nobel laureates and a long list of important medical discoveries and developments proves that Australia is a sporting nation in the laboratory as well as on the field.”

- Medical Research Week activities include:
- . National Tour by Professor Ralph Bradshaw
    - . RICH forum – Melbourne
    - . Public Expo in Melbourne & Queensland
  - . AMRAD Journalism Award – Medical Research
  - . Public lectures, career lectures in each state
    - . Scientific Meetings

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