

the Australian Society *for* Medical Research



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PRESS RELEASE - March 16, 1999

The Board of Directors of The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR), Australia's peak organisation representing the health and medical research community, enthusiastically welcomes the comments made by the Prime Minister in his address to the Centenary Institute, RPAH Sydney. Mr Howard said..... "The intellectual capital of Australia is one of its most precious assets".

The generation of Intellectual property in Australia is extra-ordinary and observed from afar with envy. The recognition of Australian scientific and particularly medical research by our leaders is important for the countries morale.... BUT the real test of our leaders will be whether they sieze the opportunities Australian Research and Development offers the future economic growth of this country. We have no more than 2 to 3 years to join the global leap from the communications revolution to the biotechnology revolution. Otherwise Australians will miss out on being producers of this wealth generating technology.

The recommendations of the recently released Discussion Document of the Health and Medical Research Strategic Review presents an opportunity for politicians to demonstrate bi-partisan support for the adoption of policies which will ensure Australia is part of the biotechnology revolution.

The adoption of the HMRSR will mean upto 15,000 new, highly skilled, wealth producing jobs in the next 5 years. With a very small investment and the implementation of the structural changes recommended by Mr. Peter Will's review, Australia need not be constrained by its small population size. Rather we can capitalize upon our relatively high intellectual stature.

"ASMR", Dr Rob Ramsay (President-elect) said "is much heartened by the words of the PM. We hope this speech is an indication that it is the intention of the Government to support the implementation of the critically important recommendations of the HMRSR".

**Rob Ramsay
President-elect ASMR**

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