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ASMR Welcomes Comprehensive Draft National Health and Medical Research Strategy

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) is pleased with the release of the much-anticipated Draft National Health and Medical Research Strategy this week, acknowledging it as an important first step towards a strong and sustainable research ecosystem.

ASMR CEO, Dr Shane Huntington OAM, noted the clear articulation in the draft that the system is currently fragmented, has confusing and overlapping funding architecture, and currently faces significant funding challenges.

“The Draft Strategy covers many of the current issues that the sector is facing. In particular we are delighted to see such a strong focus on the development of a comprehensive workforce plan.

I very much look forward to seeing how the interplay between full funding of research, PhD numbers, full use of the MRFF, and a clearer funding landscape can be brought together to build a sustainable and rewarding working environment for all researchers”.

ASMR also noted the Draft Strategy asks significant questions about both the size and optimization of the health and medical research sector.

“The Draft Strategy poses challenging questions for governments with regards to implementation. The current ecosystem is unsustainable without significant investment or large-scale reform. The path taken in implementing the strategy will shape the sector for decades to come.

“The seismic international shifts in the research policy landscape further challenge the strategy to both insulate Australian researchers from these changes and further strengthen the sector”.

ASMR will continue to represent Health and Medical Researchers and the incredible work they do to improve the lives of all Australians and contribute to the national economy.