

10 March 2026

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

We write to you on behalf of the **Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR)**, together with a coalition of **patient advocacy organisations from across Australia**, to call for the urgent release of funding already available within the **Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)**. The MRFF was established with a clear national purpose: to provide a stable, long-term investment in health and medical research that improves health outcomes, strengthens the healthcare system, and delivers lasting benefits for Australians.

Patient communities across Australia are acutely aware that research underpins earlier diagnosis, better treatments, reduced hospitalisation, and improved quality of life. Delays in translating research into practice have real consequences for people living with chronic illness, rare diseases, cancer, mental health conditions, and many other health challenges. For these Australians, timely research investment is not optional—it is essential.

We are deeply concerned that funds currently available within the MRFF have not been released as originally intended. This represents a missed opportunity to support research that could reduce long-term healthcare costs, improve patient outcomes, and ease pressure on the health system. For patients, this translates into longer waits for innovation, fewer clinical trials, and slower uptake of evidence-based care. Not investing today means a significant reduction in research impact for decades to come.

Currently more than \$1 billion is available annually from the fund. We respectfully ask that you act to ensure the **prompt and full release of these funds**, in line with the Fund's original mandate. Doing so would send a strong signal to patients, researchers, and the broader health sector that the Australian Government is committed to improving health outcomes for all Australians.

ASMR and the patient advocacy organisations listed below would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, or your office, to discuss how MRFF investment can be optimised to deliver the greatest long-term benefit for patients across Australia.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Shane Huntington OAM
CEO - Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR)

On behalf of ASMR and the patient advocacy organisations listed below.

 <p>Crohn's & Colitis Australia Live Fearlessly with IBD</p>	 <p>CYSTIC FIBROSIS Australia</p>	 <p>Heart Support Australia</p>
 <p>Leukaemia Foundation</p>	 <p>MS RESEARCH ADVOCACY CURE AUSTRALIA</p>	 <p>NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA</p>
 <p>ASTHMA AUSTRALIA</p>	 <p>ausEE Inc. a charity dedicated to improving lives affected by an eosinophilic disease</p>	 <p>EPILEPSY FOUNDATION</p>
 <p>parkinson's australia National Advocacy · Connection · Awareness</p>	 <p>essential tremor australia</p>	 <p>Through the Unexpected</p>
 <p>AusPIPS</p>	 <p>OVARIAN CANCER AUSTRALIA</p>	 <p>FSH FSHD Global Research Foundation GIVING LIFE TO MUSCLES</p>
 <p>scleroderma australia</p>	 <p>LGBTIQ+ HEALTH AUSTRALIA</p>	 <p>CURE CASK Angelina CASK Neurological Research Foundation CHANGING LIVES THROUGH SCIENCE AND HOPE</p>
 <p>rare voices AUSTRALIA</p>	 <p>DRAGON CLAW</p>	 <p>debra Australia</p>
 <p>CHRONIC UTI Australia Inc.</p>	 <p>FOXG1 RESEARCH FOUNDATION</p>	 <p>Arthritis AUSTRALIA</p>
 <p>Care Opinion Australia</p>	 <p>MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AUSTRALIA</p>	 <p>pwda PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AUSTRALIA</p>
 <p>miracle babies FOUNDATION</p>	 <p>genetic alliance australia</p>	 <p>gsnv Genetic Support Network Victoria</p>
 <p>Syndromes Without A Name</p>		