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The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) supports the statement by Tim Besley (President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering), which identifies the need to strengthen the enabling sciences of chemistry, physics, mathematics and engineering.

**ASMR's Platform for Health and Medical Research (December 2000), states -**

**“Increased school and university funding is essential to establish a strong base and broad literacy in mathematics and the sciences**

The primary focus of innovation occurs in the tertiary sector. To underpin our science and technology base, support must be directed to increasing the level and capacity of scientific and technical literacy in our schools and universities. If science teachers are not formally trained in science, as is the case in some instances, it becomes hard to positively sustain and nurture students.

*Programs that support and develop science and maths teachers in our schools should therefore be implemented with priority.*

At Universities, where we train our scientists and teachers of the future, it is crucial to provide incentives to attract high quality students into these areas. The provision of several hundred HECS scholarships would serve to attract students into these disciplines and to ensure that the pool of graduates entering science and maths teaching and the support base for the underpinning sciences of physics, maths and chemistry is strong and vibrant.”

ASMR's full Platform for Health and Medical Research may be viewed at <http://www.asmr.org.au/news>

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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**