

NHMRC Funding is Declining and Burden of Disease is Rising

Health and Medical Research in Australia

Key Messages and Facts for Budget 2010–11

Investment in Health and Medical Research (HMR) returns Exceptional Value¹

- Australia has the third-highest life expectancy in the world
- HMR provides 117% return on investment, second only to the mining and wholesale/retail sectors
- Australia delivers first-class medical research
- \$30 billion economic benefit of health and medical research

The burden of disease is rising

- Must keep pace in terms of health and wealth
- Investment in human capital must be protected
- There will be a 4-fold increase in the number of Australians over 85 years old in 3 decades¹
- Health care costs will escalate from \$96.5 billion to \$246.1 billion by 2033²
- PBS expenditure is the fastest-growing item in the health budget²
- 70% of health funding is acute care/need for preventions and interventions

What can health and medical research do?

- Save lives and prevents suffering
- New and better preventative screening strategies and intervention
- Long and more productive lives
- Increase GDP, increase tax revenues through healthy and productive ageing
- Decreases Medicare and PBS costs
- Decrease hospital stays

What will the decline in health and medical research funding do in Australia?

- Decline in health and economic benefit
- Loss of return on investment
- Erode workforce investment
- Loss of global competitiveness

What can you do?

- Urge your colleagues and family to take action in support of sustained NHMRC investment, plus a modest increase
- Engage your local member (visits and emails/letters)
- Write to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Health Minister (use personal examples)

What to ask for in the pre-budget submission 2010–11?

Sustaining NHMRC budget, plus a modest increase in investment

¹ Access Economics. *Exceptional Returns II: The Value of Investing in Health Research and Development in Australia*.

In: 2008. <http://www.asmr.org.au/campaign.html>

² Intergenerational Report April 2007



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