

## SRHMRA Submission 102 — Jonathan Niclis

Hello, I am a young scientist, a final year PhD student at Monash University. I have been an active member of my institute, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Research Laboratories, and am a passionate supporter of medical research.

I have chosen the life of a research scientist as I believe it to be one of the, if not most, crucial pillars of our modern society.

I believe the Australian government must support medical research to the maximum capacity possible. Higher investment and shepherding of medical research directly leads to increases in innovations and patents that benefit the economy enormously. This is particularly so if the innovations lead to reductions in the rates of certain ailments and diseases or prevention of them altogether. These innovations have available to them a market here, but also globally that is enormous, and with increased ageing and disease incidences going forward, it is imperative that our nation take this opportunity.

A nation that funds and fosters an innovative future can only be one that thrives. It will become an economic disaster if we do not provide the facilities for our best and brightest, as they will find a home in one of the many nations competing in an ever globalised world. My training is not and cannot be tied to Australia, and if the industry here is not appropriately funded, I will regrettably emigrate to a country where the resources are available to enable me to pursue the groundbreaking research I wish to explore. This will be a story of the many, and already is the story for too many.

Australia has world class institutions and facilities already established, we must enable them to go the step further and become world leading, or else we will be overtaken by the increased investment in developed nations and the emerging investments in the developing world.

A nation that has no innovation is a nation that perishes and after coming so far in so few decades, it would be a shame to see our society fall behind.

The discoveries need dollars campaign has highlighted in great detail the economic benefits of medical research and I will not repeat them all here. The investments do pay off, and substantially so. We cannot rely on our natural resources forever, and must use the boom we are experience to drive a sustainable, expanding and leading industry in the intellectual resources of our nation.

Medical research saves lives, saves money, and boosts living standards for every one of us. All members of society will be behind a push to expend every effort possible to lift the burden of disease on our fellow citizen.

Thank you.