



Prof. Jeff Coombes
School of Human Movement Studies
University of Queensland
St Lucia QLD 4072 Australia

The University of Queensland
Brisbane Qld 4072 Australia
Internet www.hms.uq.edu.au
CRICOS PROVIDER NUMBER 00025B

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To whom it may concern

On behalf of School of Human Movement Studies at The University of Queensland I would like to make a submission to the McKeon strategic review of health and medical research.

In particular I would like to address the question - How might health and medical research be best managed and funded in Australia?

As background, a large number of researchers in Schools of Human Movement Studies/Sport and Exercise Science in Australia conduct research investigating the beneficial effects of clinical exercise therapy on health outcomes. Many of these individuals submit NH&MRC Project Grant Applications each year. The overall success of these has been historically very low. Indeed a search of the successful applications last year did not find one such project that was funded. Based on discussions from clinical exercise researchers and feedback from past panel members, it is likely that these applications are directed to panels that do not have members with expertise in clinical exercise. Indeed, we are aware that many of these end up on a panel that includes "Arthritis/Sport/Musculoskeletal Conditions". There are no panels that specifically address "clinical exercise".

Given the increasing interest in the preventative health benefits for clinical exercise therapy for health outcomes our **request is to consider including "Clinical Exercise" explicitly in the broad research group number 6 along with Arthritis/Sport/Musculoskeletal Conditions**. This would increase the status of this important research area and lead to the inclusion of panel members with identified expertise in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Coombes