

**SRHMRA Submission 180 — Kim Jacobson**

How might health and medical research be best managed and funded in Australia?

- There is still gender inequity at senior levels. One possible avenue for assistance is more funding for women to travel to conferences and overseas institutes with young children. It should not be understated how important traveling to conferences etc is for advancement of research AND career development.

- Risky projects often lead to innovative leaps in knowledge; however, the current funding system makes it difficult to undertake these projects. In particular, postdocs looking to make the transition to independence, or junior lab heads, are cornered into “safer” projects to get their foot in the door of the funding system. In addition, Australia has a dearth of junior lab head positions with respect to the number of postdocs. For these two reasons, more financial assistance for scientists at this stage in their career is warranted.