

## Submission 305— Bio21 Cluster

The Bio21 Cluster is Victoria's leading health and medical research (HMR) cluster. Representing twenty two Members from universities, independent medical research institutes, CSIRO and hospitals, the Cluster promotes collegiality and cooperation, catalyses opportunities for projects that support HMR and leverages the multi-disciplinary capabilities and expertise of its Members to address scientific and health-related issues beyond the reach of any individual organisation.

The following are some of the shared views of the broad-based Bio21 Cluster research community.

- Active engagement with the world community promotes excellence in Australian HMR and drives innovation from the sector.
- Commercialisation of HMR products, including diagnostics, medical devices, therapeutics, vaccines and manufacturing scale-up and development know-how results in significant economic benefits to the country.
- Continuous engagement in the global dialogue and exchange of ideas will allow Australia to adopt world's-best practices to provide clinically-relevant and cost-effective health care for all Australians.
- Better-defined and more secure career pathways should be available and funded appropriately to protect our valuable resource of medical and clinical researchers and attract future generations of researchers.
- No barriers should exist to inhibit individuals moving within and between the industry, research and health care sectors.
- The indirect costs of research should be funded irrespective of the type of institution carrying out research.
- The Government should continue its support of HMR and also take steps to create an environment that stimulates private, including philanthropic, investment in HMR.
- The Government is encouraged to provide dedicated funding to create a limited number of AHRCs and to ensure that the governance structures adopted will deliver outcomes that meet government and community priorities.
- Translational research could be enhanced if hospitals were to become eligible to bid for 'ear-marked' infrastructure funding to support medical research in the same way as can universities and medical research institutes.