

My submission addresses terms of reference 5, 12 and 13: How might health and medical research be best managed and funded in Australia?

I am a biomedical researcher, and would like to highlight to the committee the importance of maintaining funding for basic biomedical research as part of a balanced portfolio of investment in medical research. Even though basic science may not immediately lead to a cure to a particular disease, it is this knowledge base that treatments to various conditions are built upon. This is exemplified by my current line of research: I'm working on a bionic eye project (ARC funded); it is only through many decades of basic scientific research which gave sufficient understanding of the visual system that the concept of the bionic eye has now become possible. Without the investment in basic science, the rate of which therapies and treatments for diseases can be developed in the future will no doubt suffer.