

SRHMRA Submission 93 — Rebecca Stewart

For the attention of the McKeon Review of Health and Medical Research.

Australia has the good fortune of being a prosperous country with ample natural resources adding to our countries current and future wealth. We are lucky to enjoy a national healthcare scheme and high quality education across our Universities. Investments into health and medical research will provide further medical advances for the Australian public, helping the healthcare system deliver top quality medical treatment for patients as well as provide financial savings to the healthcare system through new discoveries. Funding for medical research will utilise the top quality science graduates here in Australia facilitating our transition from 'the lucky country' to 'the smart country'.

Specifically, root and branch reform of the NHMRC grant system, to create a more efficient and productive process for allocating funding will allow researchers to spend more time making discoveries and less time on administration. This will free up our most qualified professionals for hands on scientific work and training of the next generation of scientists. Secondly, full funding of indirect costs to medical research institutes, such as electricity and waste disposal, would allow institutes to use philanthropic funding to support researchers in undertaking cutting-edge work.

Finally, an investment into health and medical is an investment in Australia's medical, financial and intellectual future.