



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 18 June, 2012

\$37.3 MILLION FOR NSW MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Minister for Health and Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today announced more than \$37 million funding for the state's *Medical Research Support Program (MRSP)* – extra money that means medical research in NSW is on track to lead the nation.

“This week's budget included an extra \$5 million for the *NSW Medical Research Support Program*,” Mrs Skinner said.

When added to the \$5 million provided to the program in the last financial year, this brings the NSW Government's total commitment to \$37.3 million per year, she said.

“NSW is home to some of the best researchers in Australia, if not the world,” Mrs Skinner said.

“From increased life expectancy and new treatments for disease to technologies which change the way we live and work, research is a vital part of ensuring positive health outcomes for the wider community.”

The MRSP provides infrastructure funding to NSW health and medical research institutes undertaking world class research projects and puts them in a better position financially to compete for Commonwealth grants.

“Funding provided under the four year program will specifically assist research institutes to cover their operational costs,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This sort of support is vital to ensure that world-class research projects continue in NSW,” she added.

Mrs Skinner said by increasing the MRSP's base funding to \$37.3 million per year, the O'Farrell Government had now more than doubled the annual funding provided by the Labor Government.

“Medical research is a cornerstone of the health system, which is why the government is spending a record amount on it,” she said.

“This week's budget also delivers infrastructure spending on health and medical research facilities so that they can continue their lifesaving research, with \$55 million allocated in partnership with the Commonwealth for the Westmead Millennium Institute,” Mrs Skinner said.

She said NSW is also well positioned to become a leader in translational research thanks to the government's investment in cancer research, specifically \$28 million to the NSW Cancer Institute for cancer research.

“Our health system is driven by a strong and dynamic research industry,” she said.

“The NSW Government is determined to see the benefits of this research shared right across the community.”

Independent health and medical research organisations that have received an average of \$3 million each year from peer-reviewed research grants over the past three years are eligible to apply for grants under the *Medical Research Support Program*.

“Previously funded organisations under the program are also able to re-apply under this round and I encourage all eligible medical research organisations take advantage of this great opportunity,” Mrs Skinner said.

The *Medical Research Support Program* is administered through the Office for Health and Medical Research (OHMR).

The office and an external selection panel will manage the application process. Applications are now open and will remain open until Monday 16 July, 2012.

More information on the *2012-2016 Medical Research Support Program* is available at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr>