



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday, 4 September 2012

#### **APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW MEDICAL DEVICES FUND**

The Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today announced that applications for the new Medical Devices Fund are now open.

The Medical Devices Fund will support individuals, public and private hospitals, medical research institutes, universities, other public sector research organisations and the medical devices industry to take local medical innovations to a worldwide market.

“The establishment of the Medical Devices Fund was a key election commitment for the NSW Government and reflects our support for medical research in this state,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The NSW Government has committed \$5 million annually for a new Medical Devices seeding fund to support the development of medical devices to further better treatment options and patient outcomes.

“The NSW Government has boosted the funds available in its inaugural year, 2012-2013 to make \$8 million available.

“This fund will foster the design and development of medical devices while also promoting their potential uses and benefits.

“Investment in quality medical research, including the development of medical devices and technology, supports innovative clinical outcomes as well as contemporary methods of care for patients.”

Mrs Skinner said she has seen firsthand the profound effect that innovative medical devices can have on the lives of patients and their families.

“I’ve been blessed to have been with families when their child’s cochlear implants were turned on for the first time.

“It’s impossible not to be moved to see a mother’s face when her child hears her voice for the first time,” Mrs Skinner said.

“It’s these kinds of life-changing innovations that we want to see created, developed and supported through the Medical Devices Fund.”

Mrs Skinner said preliminary applications close on 10 October 2012.

“I’m pleased to announce that the NSW Government has appointed an Expert Group to assess projects, chaired by Professor Mary O’Kane, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

“Professor O’Kane, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, will be the inaugural chair of the Medical Devices Fund Expert Group, which will oversee the evaluation of grant applications to the fund.

“Professor O’Kane’s experience in advising governments, universities and private companies to encourage innovation and research make her perfect for the role,” Mrs Skinner said.

Professor O’Kane said the \$5 million per annum program will build on the economic and social benefits for NSW that local organisations such as ResMed and Cochlear Ltd have already forged.

“I anticipate that this fund will be a pivotal contributor to building future medical technology commercial success in NSW,” Professor O’Kane said.

Professor O’Kane will participate in the Expert Group with:

- Mr Neville Mitchell, CFO, Cochlear Limited
- Dr Bob Frater AO, Vice President, Innovation, ResMed Ltd
- Mr Michael Still, Northern Sydney LHD Board Member, Company Director
- Mr Adam Spencer, science guru and radio announcer

Further details regarding the Medical Devices Fund, including the Expert Group and Application Kit are available at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr) or via email at [ohmr@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ohmr@doh.health.nsw.gov.au).