

Tuesday 18 June 2013

DRIVING INNOVATION THROUGH MEDICAL RESEARCH

The NSW Government is committed to supporting innovation to cement our state as a centre of excellence for medical research, Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner said today.

In 2013-14 the Government will continue to give a high priority to medical research through:

- \$51 million for targeted investment in the Medical Research Support Program (\$38 million) and the Medical Devices Seeding Fund (\$13 million).
- \$30 million investment in people and infrastructure to support research through the Cancer Institute.
- \$11.5 million for research in population health, notably in preventable disease.
- \$5.2 million to support research through the Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office.
- \$1.2 million for the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI).

“I am proud to be the Minister for Medical Research as well as the Minister for Health. Medical research is not just an after-thought – it is at the very heart of the modern health care system and has potential to profoundly impact lives for the better,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner said the Government’s multi-million commitment to the Medical Research Support Program will allow researchers vital financial security so that they can focus on their essential work.

“Some of our brightest minds will be free to focus on what they do best, making ground breaking discoveries,” she said.

A multi-million dollar investment in the Medical Devices Seeding Fund will support innovation and assist researchers bring their ideas to commercial reality.

“The NSW Government understands that medical devices can have a profound, life-changing effect on patients and their families, as the cochlear ear implant did when it was first brought to market.”

Mrs Skinner said the Cancer Institute is doing outstanding work to drive research.

“There are very few of us who are not touched by cancer and who do not wish for a greater understanding of the causes of cancer, prevention, treatment and, of course, cure. It is very important that very talented researchers and clinicians be allowed to undertake their vital work,” she said.

Mrs Skinner said the ACI is being funded to continue its important research, with grants for a range of studies into areas such as improving outcomes for people with spinal cord injury through early intervention and improved access to specialised care, the mental health of adults with intellectual disability and the prevalence and needs of confused older people in hospital.