



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR HUMAN GENOMICS RESEARCH GRANTS

Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner has launched the NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants Program to support researchers as they undertake ground-breaking research into whole genome sequencing.

The NSW Government is providing \$7 million over four years for the grants program, with \$3 million available in 2014/15 alone.

“This ground-breaking program will provide NSW researchers with access to the latest whole genome sequencing technology as part of a world-leading human genomics collaborative research program,” Mrs Skinner said.

“It will enable researchers to investigate gene disorders, rare and inherited genetic disease, cancer and complex disease with a strong genetic component.”

The grants funding will provide access to the state-of-the-art sequencing facility operated by the Kinghorn Centre for Clinical Genomics at the Garvan Institute.

Earlier this year, the Garvan Institute was announced as one of only a handful of international centres to have acquired the Illumina HiSeq X Ten system, which can sequence more than 300 whole human genomes per week.

Sophisticated mathematical analysis and interpretation - known as bioinformatics - is required to understand the results of these tests. Provision has been made for researchers to access these services as part of the grant funding.

“Genomics has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of patient care,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Over time, these advances will fundamentally change the way medicine is practised, with a new focus on preventative healthcare and targeted treatments.

“By providing this funding, the NSW Government is providing researchers with access to new technology before many other places in the world. It will help establish NSW as a national and international leader in genomic medicine,” she said.

An independent panel will oversee the application process and make recommendations on successful applications.

The NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants Program is a component of the \$24 million Sydney Genomics Collaborative Program announced in the 2014 State Budget.

Applications and guidelines for the NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants Program are available from the Office for Health and Medical Research.

Applications close on 25 August 2014.

For more information, visit <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/pages/default.aspx>