



MEDIA RELEASE
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Deans welcome boost to Medical Research

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) has welcomed the Federal Government's and the National Health and Medical Research Council's recent announcement to recognise new Advanced Health Research and Translational Centres to further build Australia's much needed medical research infrastructure.

'This is an essential step toward making Australia the leading nation in medical research that it should be and can be' said the President of Medical Deans, Professor Peter Smith.

'Importantly it supports us to provide only the best evidence based medical care to everyday Australians. We are all committed to finding cures for cancer and chronic disease and making sure Australians get the best value out of their doctors and scientists.'

Professor Smith said this initiative will also support the very welcome establishment of the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund announced by the Government in the May 2014 Budget.

'We know that doing good medical research takes committed investment such as this. These funds will enable the very best and brightest of our medical researchers and doctors to excel and deliver the medical break throughs we all hope for.'

Australian medical schools and universities currently provide up to 80% of the national medical research effort. In the last decade universities have hosted the seminal works of Nobel laureates in medicine such as Doherty, Marshall, Warren and Blackburn.

Advances such as Graeme Clarke's invention of the bionic ear and Ian Frazer's development of a vaccine to prevent cancer of the cervix have both arisen from university research activities, both developed by doctors undertaking clinical research. With significant communities of clinical scientists medical schools are well placed to undertake translational research that takes findings such as these from the bench to the patient bedside.

Professor Smith said medical schools capacity to work with our doctor scientists in the hospitals and medical researchers in the University means medical research is always directed at what is best for the patient.

Professor Smith said building on these essential research collaborations between universities and health service providers in the public and private sector will improve our health system overall.

Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres are one way of consolidating the best of medical research with excellence in health care delivery.

The proposed Medical Research Future Fund provides a significant investment toward a sustainable and vibrant medical research effort.

Medical Deans also calls on the States and Territories to actively engage with these exciting and necessary initiatives in our health care system.

Medical Deans is made up of the Deans of Australia's 18 university medical schools and the two New Zealand schools.

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