

## Health & medical research and the 2012-13 Federal Budget

### Investment = better health + reduced costs

- ▲ Health & ageing will account for almost half the Government spend by 2050.
- ▲ Investment in research is the only way to reduce the burden of disease by pioneering new diagnostics, treatments and technologies.
- ▲ Investment in research improves the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health care and fosters a culture of excellence in our hospitals.
- ▲ Research today safeguards the community against the health threats of tomorrow.

### Investment = strong economic dividends

- ▲ Every \$1 invested in health & medical research returns on average \$2.17 in health benefits.
- ▲ Australian investment reduces the threat of this country becoming consumers of second hand knowledge, and the cost of paying for someone else's innovation.
- ▲ Australia's medicines industry alone is worth almost \$4 billion in exports annually – our most valuable high-technology export industry.

### It's time for equality of funding

- ▲ The Government should fund the highest quality and most productive research, irrespective of whether it's at a medical research institute or a university.
- ▲ Australia's independent medical research institutes are among the most esteemed research organisations in the world, yet their researchers receive less Government funding than university-based researchers for the equivalent research.
- ▲ Independent researchers also can't directly access Australian Research Council funding for bio-discovery research, resulting in an inefficient web of indirect funding streams and extra layers of bureaucracy.

### It's important to maintain funding in the 2012-13 Budget

- ▲ Federal funding of health & medical research should be maintained until the McKeon Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research is completed.
- ▲ The Commonwealth Government invests just 0.09% of GDP in health & medical research compared with an OECD average of 0.11% and 0.31% in the US.
- ▲ The 'doing nothing' option is in fact the 'going backwards' option as we try to compete with the strong research commitment in countries like China and Korea.

### Australians call for an increase in health & medical research funding

- ▲ The Australian community strongly supports health & medical research, having been touched by Australian medical breakthroughs, including the bionic ear, the humidicrib, the heart pacemaker, IVF technology and the cervical cancer vaccine.
- ▲ More than 80% of Australians believe it is very important to increase funding for health & medical research.