

State & Territory 2014-15 budgets: health & medical research

NEW SOUTH WALES

Funding for health and medical research programs was maintained at \$92 million in the 2014-15 NSW budget.

Key programs for 2014-15 included:

- \$6 million (as part of \$24 million over four years) for a new Sydney Genomic Collaborative program for screening genetic markers to help identify cancer risk and therapeutic interventions;
- \$44 million towards the Medical Research Support Program (up from \$38 million in 2013-14) to support independent medical research institutes in meeting the indirect costs of research;
- \$34 million continued investment for the Cancer Institute NSW to support cancer research programs;
- \$7.7 million in commitments for the Medical Devices Seeding Fund (down from \$10.3 million in commitments in 2013-14) to support development of medical devices;
- \$1.5 million over three years for NSW Health Pathology to establish a state-wide approach to research biobanks; and
- \$448,000 over two years for a postdoctoral fellowship in medical device commercialisation in California.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The NT 2014-15 budget included \$0.5 million over two years to continue the Business Innovation Support Initiatives program, which supports small and medium-sized businesses to pursue innovation and undertake R&D projects.

QUEENSLAND

Key initiatives for health and medical research in the Queensland 2014-15 budget included:

- a new \$500 million Entrepreneurial and Innovation Fund to reinvigorate research and innovation;
- \$18.9 million in continued support for QIMR Berghofer, a statutory body of the Government; and
- maintenance of \$255 million towards completing the Children's Hospital and Centre for Children's Health Research.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Key initiatives in the SA budget included:

- an additional \$3 million over four years to expand Health Industries SA ([HealthInSA](#)), launched in early 2014 to leverage off South Australia's Health and Biomedical Precinct to facilitate economic growth, health industry investment and job creation;

- savings of \$4.8 million from 2014-15, increasing over the forward estimates, by merging the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology and the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy to create the Department of State Development;
- \$2.5 million over three years from 2013-14 to support the transition of Hills Ltd towards an advanced manufacturing and research base, including an increased capability focused on healthcare and assisted living, innovation facilities to support students, and entrepreneurial early stage business and manufacturing;
- \$200,000 in 2015-16 to develop a business plan and undertake cost-benefit analysis for a further business accelerator for the bioscience sector; and
- transfer of the Centre for Cancer Biology researchers and research activities from the Department of Health and Ageing to the University of South Australia, effective from 1 Jan 2014.

TASMANIA

To be released on 28 Aug 2014

VICTORIA

The Victorian 2014-15 budget included two new initiatives for health and medical research:

- \$17.8 million over three years for the [Global Health Melbourne Plan](#) (released pre-budget) to help generate new overseas business opportunities for Victoria's health goods and services industry; and
- an additional \$2.4 million over three years for the Victoria Prizes, Victoria Fellowships and Victorian Post-doctoral Research Fellowships.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

There were no new initiatives for health and medical research in the WA 2014-15 budget.

However, \$2.85 million in funding from the FutureHealth WA initiative was [announced](#) on 6 June, including:

- \$1.46 million to university researchers to fund 'near miss' NHMRC grant and fellowship applications to improve the competitiveness of re-submitted applications;
- \$500,000 for WA University research mentoring programs; and
- \$900,000 to support databases of health information.

The FutureHealth WA initiative, announced in the 2013-14 state budget, provides an additional \$30 million over four years towards health and medical research. In addition to the \$2.85 million announced on 6 June, \$2 million was committed in 2013-14 to the Telethon-Perth Children's Hospital Research Fund and \$364,500 was committed to a state-wide ethics and research governance IT platform.