Medical research facilities – grants for development and expansion

Why is this important?

• Continued investment is essential to further expand our medical research capacity, thereby ensuring Australia remains at the international forefront of advances in health and medical technology.

• This funding recognises that health and medical research infrastructure is vital to Australia’s ability to deliver high quality research focused on improving the health of all Australians.

Who will benefit?

• This initiative will help build the capacity in the medical health and research sector in Australia. The money will be used to build greater capacity in Australian research institutions. This will enable institutions to be able to retain and attract world quality researchers working in areas such as mental health, cancer, Indigenous health, childhood diseases and conditions, biomedical science and bioengineering. The benefits will flow on to the Australian population as the potential recipients of improved treatment and medications that result from this work.

• This funding will support the following health and medical research institutions:
  
  o **Princess Alexandra Hospital and University of Queensland** - $100 million towards the creation of the first facility in the Southern Hemisphere for developing new life-saving biopharmaceuticals.

  o **Western Australian Institutes for Health** - $100 million towards construction of two innovative research facilities, at the new Fiona Stanley Hospital and Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre in Perth. The funding will also pay part of the costs of transferring the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research to the same location.

  o **Queensland Institute of Medical Research** - $55 million for building and fit-out of a new 13-storey medical research facility, enabling the Institute to expand into new research areas such as mental health disorders (including bipolar disorder and schizophrenia), tropical diseases, vaccine development and biosecurity.

  o **Murdoch Childrens Research Institute** - $50 million towards a new world class facility at the re-developed Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, to research serious childhood diseases and conditions.

  o **Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute** - $30 million towards a new purpose-built facility in Sydney to provide the focus for a world-class Neuroscience Research Precinct.

  o **Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Murdoch University** - $19.5 million to build and fit out a building for a new Institute of Immunology and
Infectious Diseases in Perth, to continue ground-breaking research into Hepatitis and HIV including a possible HIV vaccine.

- **Westmead Millennium Institute** - $15 million towards construction of a new research building to house more than 700 scientists as a medical research hub.

- **Monash University** - $15 million towards a new Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute in Melbourne. The Institute will bring together expertise in stem cell research, biomedical science and bioengineering and provide world-class training in these fields through the Future Scientific Leaders Program.

- **The Baker Heart Research Institute** - $14 million for a new National Heart and Diabetes Research Institute targeting obesity and associated diseases and a new Indigenous vascular research centre in Alice Springs.

- **Sydney Cancer Centre** - $10 million to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital to further develop the Centre and add specialist clinical research and services to make the Centre a world-class hub of excellence in all aspects of cancer care.

- **Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer** - $10 million towards construction of a building for the Centre, to provide innovative clinical services and research into prevention, treatment and management of cancer.

- **Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health** - $6 million towards completion of the new facility to merge the Burnet and Austin Medical Research Institutes in Melbourne.

- **Brain and Mind Research Institute** - $6 million for the fitout of the new Ken Parker Brain Research laboratories in Sydney.

- **Menzies School of Health Research** - $5.3 million for expansion of the School in Darwin to extend its Indigenous health research.

- The Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop also announced $50 million in Commonwealth Government funding to contribute to the operating costs of the Australian Synchrotron. The Synchrotron will be a world-class facility performing leading-edge science.

**What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?**

- The Government has committed funding of $485.8 million to support this initiative.

**What have we done in the past?**

- Since the financial year 2004-05, the Commonwealth Government has provided $256.2 million for medical research facilities.

**When will the initiative conclude?**

- Funding under this initiative will be provided to the medical research institutes by the end of the 2006-07 financial year.