



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Review to Strengthen Independent Medical Research Institutes**

The Australian Government will conduct a review of independent Medical Research Institutes (iMRIs) to identify what is required to ensure that they can continue to make a strong contribution to health and medical research in Australia.

Health Minister Peter Dutton said iMRIs play an important role in Australia's vibrant and collaborative health and medical research sector.

"The review is an opportunity to examine how these organisations currently operate and relate to the wider Australian health and medical research community, and how well positioned they are to respond to the opportunities presented by the Medical Research Future Fund," Mr Dutton said.

"A review panel has been established and will be chaired by former chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Professor Graeme Samuel.

"As non-profit organisations, iMRIs receive the majority of their funding through competitive grants for research projects through the National Health and Medical Research Council.

"In keeping with this Government's unprecedented commitment to health and medical research, the panel will consider and make recommendations for improving the viability and competitiveness of iMRIs, with a focus on increasing efficiency and collaboration."

The Review will consider the business models used by Australian iMRIs, research infrastructure platforms and the translational impact of research as well as opportunities to improve collaboration and partnerships both within the research sector and across clinical settings, universities, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, private equity and philanthropic bodies.

Consultation will take place with state and territory governments, medical research institutes and universities. The panel will also consider international models as part of its review.

The review is expected to be completed by the end of January 2015.

The members of the review panel are:

- Professor Graeme Samuel AC (Chair),
- Mr Alastair Lucas AM

- Mr Matthew Grounds, and
- Professor Warwick Anderson AM.

“The panel members not only bring a wealth of experience from the private sector, but they also have been heavily involved in medical research and recognise the important role of the sector and of individual research institutions,” Mr Dutton said.

**For more information, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220**