



# MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

## Tony Abbott MHR

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### **Funding for adult stem cell research announced**

The Commonwealth Government will provide \$22 million over four years towards establishing a National Adult Stem Cell Research Centre.

This extra funding will be dedicated to innovative research, particularly into Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia and motor neurone disease.

This year, \$2 million of the funding will go towards the fit out costs of the centre. It will be based at the Griffith University in Queensland, under the leadership of Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, the Queenslanders of the Year in 2003 with significant experience in this area. The centre will focus on collaborative, national and international research linkages to ensure Australia reaps maximum benefits from this investment in adult stem cell research.

The Commonwealth Government is committed to ensuring that Australia remains a world leader in health and medical research. This year, the Government has committed more than \$490 million in health and medical research funding through the National Health and Medical Research Council, more than double the funding provided in 1999.

Australia is a world leader in health and medical research - on a *per capita* basis, our research output is twice the OECD average.

**For more information call Mr Abbott's office on ph 02 6277 7220.**