



THE HON MARK BUTLER MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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Major New Multiple Sclerosis Research Project

A major collaborative research project focusing on protein analysis to unlock the secrets of multiple sclerosis was launched today by the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mark Butler.

The *Proteomics based MS Research Collaboration*, involving MS Research Australia, the Australia Research Council and leading Australian universities, aims to identify the proteins that cause MS and offer new insights with therapeutic and diagnostic potential.

Multiple sclerosis is the most commonly diagnosed, chronic neurological disease of Australians aged between 17 and 50 with more than 20,000 affected in Australia alone and more than 2.5 million worldwide.

“This research project has the potential to offer real outcomes for the many Australians whose life quality is corroded by this destructive disease,” Mr Butler said.

“The Rudd Government is committed to supporting the substantial contribution that high quality research projects, such as the *Proteomics based MS Research Collaboration*, can make to our health system and the well-being of all Australians.”

In this year’s Budget, the Rudd Government announced funding of \$703 million, an increase of \$85 million from the previous year, for the National Health and Medical Research Council to fund medical and health research.

The *Proteomics based MS Research based Collaboration* includes:

- Lead Investigator, Professor Shaun McColl, University of Adelaide, SA
- Professor Claude Bernard, Monash University, Vic
- Dr. Bill Carroll, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, WA
- Dr. Judith Greer, University of Queensland, Qld
- Dr. Peter Hoffman, University of Adelaide, SA
- Professor Ian Smith, Monash University, Vic

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