



Lifesaving and Job Creating Medical Research – Biotechnology in Australia: Strategic Plan for Health and Medicine

The Australian Government is announcing the *Biotechnology in Australia – Strategic Plan for Health and Medicine*, which focuses on the health and medical applications of this technology and will support the development of a vibrant and thriving biotechnology sector.

Biotechnology, or technology based on biology, has ushered in an era of new and improved therapeutics and treatments that are saving the lives of Australians.

The Strategic Plan brings together a range of Government initiatives to foster the research and application of biotechnology under three pillars. These pillars provide the framework for identifying gaps and aligning future initiatives.

- Supporting world-class research and development -
 - strategically investing in areas of need and driving strong partnerships between academia, government science organisations, industry, health services, and consumers.
- Facilitating high-quality and secure clinical development -
 - attracting global interest by continuously improving research capabilities, processes, and infrastructure thus ensuring they remain or become globally competitive.
- Accelerating commercialisation -
 - through partnerships and collaborations between academics, government science organisations, and industry; regulation that is fit-for-purpose; and by supporting the development of advanced manufacturing capabilities for biopharma and med-tech products.

The Strategic Plan will help the Australian health and medical science research sector to make discoveries, further development in biotechnology, and bring ideas, medicines and therapies from concept to application to change the face of health in Australia and around the world.

Why is this important?

Biotechnology is one of the most promising developments of our times. Modern biotechnology provides products and technologies that can combat debilitating and rare diseases, feed the hungry, use less and cleaner energy, and lead to safer and cleaner industrial manufacturing.

Health and medical research is one of Australia's strongest research and development sectors. We have world-class research institutions, a skilled workforce, and a competitive clinical trials sector to drive research and development activities in healthcare.

The sector is further supported by an ecosystem where:

- our regulatory environment builds confidence in the safety and efficacy of research applications
- our secure business operational environment attracts new inventions, and
- our national safeguards across research and data protects the ecosystem from threats.

The Strategic Plan is an important signal of support from the Australian Government for a growing biotechnology sector and its limitless potential.

Who will benefit?

The Strategic Plan's focus on the health and medical applications of biotechnology will drive research that save lives and lead to better health outcomes for all Australians.

The Plan provides incentives to grow Australian sovereign capacity and capability to research and manufacture locally, while strengthening our position in the growing international supply-chain for advanced medical products.

There are direct benefits of the Plan to approximately 70,000 people who work in the medical technology and biotechnology sectors across research and industry in Australia. The Plan will also benefit over 1,250 existing businesses and support the growth of the biotechnology sector and its contribution to economy over the next decade.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is providing significant funding for research and development and manufacturing support to the health and medical research and industry sectors. Funding details are accounted for in other Budget fact sheets.