

AAMRI WELCOMES REVIEW TO STRENGTHEN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) has welcomed today's announcement of an Australian Government review of independent Medical Research Institutes (iMRIs) to identify ways to ensure they can continue to make a strong contribution to health and medical research in Australia.

AAMRI President Professor Doug Hilton said the review was an opportunity to showcase the efficiency and impact of the iMRI sector on improved health and economic outcomes for the nation, and to find ways for the sector and government to together achieve the best possible outcomes for the health of the community.

"We should not be concerned about a review to improve the efficiency of our independent medical research institutes," he said. "This is an opportunity for effective, positive policy outcomes."

"In taking over the presidency of AAMRI this week I identified the importance of collaboration between the different parts of the health and medical research sector for improved outcomes, and the need for more efficient funding mechanisms, including for the indirect costs of running institutes, as priorities for my term. So this announcement comes at an opportune time."

Professor Hilton said that iMRIs have a distinct and vital role to play in ensuring health and medical research is translated into improved health outcomes for all Australians.

"Medical research institutes work side-by-side with universities, hospitals and health service providers to provide a direct interface between cutting-edge research and clinical practice," Professor Hilton said.

"As nimble, mission-based organisations with strong connections with the community, they focus on areas of genuine community need, and attract significant philanthropic and private sector funding into health and medical research."

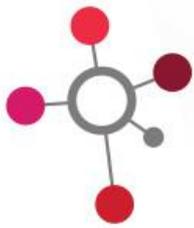
Professor Hilton said the caliber of the members of the review panel – made up of Professor Graeme Samuel AC (Chair), Alastair Lucas AM, Matthew Grounds and Professor Warwick Anderson AM – reflected the importance of iMRIs to Australia, and the quality of work that they produce.

"These are people who care deeply for iMRIs and the fantastic research that they undertake, with Alastair Lucas only having recently stepped down as Chair of the Burnet Institute and Matthew Grounds incumbent as Chair of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute," Professor Hilton said.

"Couple this with the Australian Government's clear commitment to health and medical research through the announcement of the \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund earlier this year and it becomes clear this review has the best interests of iMRIs at its core."

"We look forward to working closely with the review panel as it considers iMRI business models, research infrastructure, translational impact, and opportunities to improve collaboration."

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Association of Australian
Medical Research Institutes

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About AAMRI

AAMRI is the peak body representing medical research institutes across Australia. Our 45 member organisations are international leaders in health and medical research, addressing practically every aspect of human health and disease. Collectively, AAMRI's members represent more than 10,000 staff and students and an annual turnover in excess of \$1 billion.

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