



Funding health and medical research in Australia

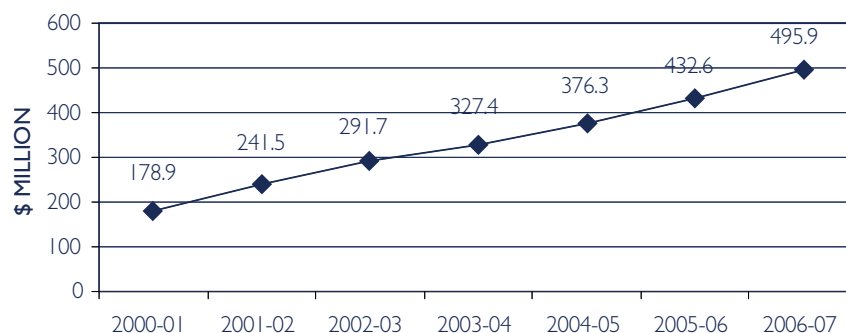
The Australian Government is committed to the ongoing support of health and medical research through the NHMRC

The Australian Government is committed to the ongoing support of health and medical research in Australia, principally through the NHMRC. This was confirmed in the May 2006 Budget with the announcement of a \$905 million increase in spending on health and medical research, including \$500 million over four years for NHMRC grants, \$170 million over nine years for prestigious Australia Fellowships to support Australia's best researchers, and \$235 million to support medical research institutions (this latter funding is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing).

Further, in its May 2007 Budget the Australian Government announced a further \$5.6 million to establish a national system to streamline ethics reviews of multi-centre or cross-jurisdictional human research/clinical trials and \$485.8 million to 14 medical research institutes and to the Australian Synchrotron facility (in Melbourne) to build a health and medical research infrastructure capacity.

NHMRC funding for medical research grants will increase to over \$700 million per annum by 2009-10. This is a five-fold increase over the 1995-96 levels of funding for research grants.

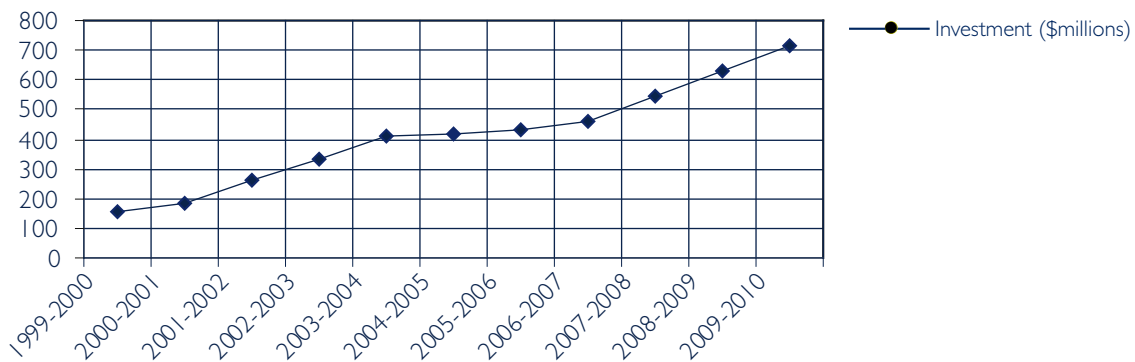
Figure 1: Total NHMRC research expenditure



continued over page >>



Figure 2: NHMRC research funding investment from 1999 to 2010



Source: DOHA Annual Reports - 1994-95 to 2004-05, DHA PBD 2005-06, Forward Estimates – NHMRC MREA Model

NHMRC is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research; for developing health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and government; and for providing advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

July 2007