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$26 million to support innovative injury research

Research aimed at preventing injuries and improving treatments has received a $26.1 million boost following the announcement of new National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants today.

The funding is distributed over 27 grants to find ways to prevent falls amongst older Australians, better techniques for recovering from traumatic brain injury and ways to deliver better care for children following injury to reduce death and disability, amongst others.

NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson said the research findings would make a difference not only to people’s lives, but reap benefits for the entire health system.

“Poor recovery from injury can have a significant and lasting impact on people’s quality of life,” Professor Anderson said.

“Conversely, understanding how injuries can best be healed and managed allows people to continue living actively, independently and with as little pain as possible. This knowledge is generated through high quality, innovative research such as what has been announced today.”

“Good treatment and management of injuries also reduces disability and strain on the health system, which delivers long term health savings and economic benefits,” he said.

“I continue to be inspired by the good that health and medical research can achieve and by the calibre of researchers NHMRC proudly supports.”

Injury is one of the Australian Government’s nine National Health Priority Areas.

“The government’s NHPAs are also priority research areas for NHMRC. In this current round of funding, around $308 million is going towards research focused on the NHPAs,” Professor Anderson said.

The grants were part of a $539.8 million announcement made today by Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Minister for Health Peter Dutton, for 773 grants across a broad range of diseases and health conditions.

Research highlights
Professor Michele Sterling, Griffith University, Centre for Research Excellence ($2,465,838)

This Centre for Research Excellence in Recovery Following Road Traffic Injuries seeks to ensure better physical and mental health outcomes for people who suffer minor injuries following a vehicle accident but are not hospitalised. This group comprises 75% of people who survive and sustain road traffic crash injuries, and almost half go on to develop chronic pain and long-term disability.

Professor Skye McDonald, University of New South Wales, Project Grant ($887,727)

Professor McDonald will conduct a randomised clinical trial to evaluate the success of techniques to mediate maladaptive behaviour of people who suffer traumatic brain injuries (TBI). People who suffer a TBI often display changes to their personality and experience difficulty with regulating their emotions, which impact on their ability to resume their pre-injury life.

Associate Professor Kate Curtis, University of Sydney, Partnership Project ($501,694)

Injury is the leading cause of death and disability among young Australians but effective evidence-based methods of care pre- and in-hospital for young injured Australians. This research will seek to shed light on differences in care and improve health services to ensure higher survival rates and better outcomes for injured children.

Further information

More information about the grants announced today can be found on the NHMRC website under Outcomes of funding rounds.

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