$11.4 Million for Health and Medical Research

Australian researchers who have formed community partnerships to improve health outcomes across Australia have received $11.4 million in Federal Government funding.

Minister for Health Peter Dutton said the grants further demonstrated the Government’s commitment to frontline services, including health and medical research in Australia.

“Jointly funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and various partners, the funding supports 14 new Partnerships for Better Health,” Mr Dutton said.

“The grants encourage alliances between partners who deliver or make decisions about health care services, and researchers who can offer tailored, evidence-based solutions.

“This latest announcement includes funding for research that aims to improve outcomes for children with cerebral palsy, assess the impact of exposure to toxic chemicals in early life and enhance the quality of services for young people with mental illness.

“The partners include hospitals, state governments and patient representative bodies.”

Mr Dutton said he was pleased to see research being conducted that is relevant and responsive to the needs of governments and organisations.

“It is encouraging that Australia’s best health and medical researchers are responding directly to the needs of those people and organisations at the front line of improving health services,” he said.

NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson praised the high quality of applications received and the spectrum of important health issues the research addresses.

“These are highly targeted research projects which hold the potential to deliver better health outcomes for the community,” Professor Anderson said.

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Grant highlights

- Associate Professor Yves d'Udekem d'Acoz ($1.25 million in NHMRC funding) will work with HeartKids Australia and the National Heart Foundation to improve the survival and quality of life of babies born with severe congenital heart conditions.
- Professor Elizabeth Waters ($578,216 in NHMRC funding) working with Yooralla (one of Australia’s organisations working to support people with disability) to develop a model of care that improves the health and wellbeing of children with a disability, and their parents.
- Professor Nicholas Zwar ($135,633 in NHMRC funding) is partnering with the National Prescribing Service and Asthma Australia to reduce pressure on the PBS by developing financial incentives for consumers to adopt a lower cost asthma medication over higher cost alternatives.

Further information

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