

Research Australia

An alliance for discoveries in health

Annual Report 2007



our mission

To make health and medical research a higher national priority

our goals

- A society that is well informed and values the benefits of health and medical research
- Greater investment in health and medical research from all sources
- Ensuring Australia captures the benefits of health and medical research
- Optimising Australia's global position in health and medical research

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board of directors



Dr Chris Roberts
CHAIRMAN



Mr Peter Wills AC
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN



Dr Christine Bennett



Professor David Burke AO



Mr Niall Byrne



Mr Laurence Cox AO



Professor Allan Cripps



Associate Professor
Matthew Gillespie
(until September 2006)



Mr John Grant AO



Mr Pat Grier
(from June 2007)



Professor Rhonda Griffiths AM



Professor Stuart Hazell



Professor Garry Jennings AM
(from June 2007)



Mr Shaun Larkin



Professor Frederick
Mendelsohn AO
(until April 2007)



Mr David Ross



Mr Kieran Schneemann
(until November 2006)



Ms Judy Stenmark



Professor Judith Whitworth AC

chairman's foreword

Health and medical research offers a means to keep Australians healthy, while supporting a productive workforce and growing a strong national economy.

The 2006-07 year provided an opportunity for Research Australia to celebrate the achievements of Australian health and medical research. We have celebrated Nobel Prize winning research, the unlocking of the human genome, the development of effective new treatments and vaccines. In addition, there has been an awakening by governments, industry and the community of the vast potential offered by health and medical research to generate a healthier, more productive future. By 2009 funding for medical research in Australia will have increased five-fold since 1996. It is no accident that this time period mirrors Research Australia's growth as a driving force for medical research advocacy.



Inigorated by our past success, we have a vision based on even more growth. We will achieve this through effective policy advocacy to promote excellent research, commercialisation and industry support, and measures to raise Australia's international competitiveness. We will help generate stronger connections between governments, researchers, industry and philanthropy to maximise the effectiveness of health and medical research investment. We will foster a new approach to broaden philanthropic giving to health and medical research. And we will continue to support community understanding and appreciation of the benefits of a strong and robust research sector in Australia.

Members, supporters and alliance partners are the mainstay of Research Australia. Without strong membership our organisation would falter. In particular, Foundation Members and Supporters such as GlaxoSmithKine, Pfizer, Merck Sharp and Dohme, the ASX and the Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation have been true and trusted friends, providing us with a secure base of resources to enable us to do our work. The beneficiaries have included researchers, universities, institutes, the life sciences industry and the community generally. I acknowledge their support with sincere gratitude.

Thanks are extended to retiring 2006/07 Board Members, Mr Kieran Schneeman, Professor Frederick Mendelsohn and Associate Professor Matthew Gillespie. Their very valuable service to the health and medical research community is gratefully acknowledged. We were pleased to welcome Mr Shaun Larkin, HCF Foundation as a Board Director. He joins former Research Australia CEO, Dr Christine Bennett, who now joins the Board in her capacity as Chair of the MBF Foundation. Support from the health insurance sector is a welcome step forward for Research Australia as we extend our corporate partnerships.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Chris Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Chris Roberts
Chairman, October 2007

chief executive officer's report

Research Australia enjoyed another successful year in championing health and medical research and we continue to strive to generate tangible benefits for our members.

We are proud of our outstanding achievements in 2006/07, and the continued and growing profile of health and medical research within the community, government and industry.

A primary focus for the year was the development of stronger relationships with members and supporters. In recognition of the importance members place on having opportunities to exchange ideas and develop new networks, we have stepped up the number of meetings and workshops for members. Our calendar was very full, and members responded positively.

Mindful of the responsibility Research Australia has for effective advocacy, we have strengthened our focus on policy, with greater attention given to the particular interests of university members, whilst ensuring we continue to represent the broad cross section of health and medical research in research institutes, the not-for-profit and corporate sectors. Our pre-budget advocacy was a major success story and the growing Federal government commitment to health and medical research was warmly welcomed. We have been pleased to strengthen our engagement with state governments and hope to build on these relationships in the future.

We are indebted to our medallion members and supporters for their continued support. It underpins our capacity to serve our entire membership base. Particular acknowledgement is given to the ASX, Merck Sharp and Dohme, HCF Foundation, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson and the MBF Foundation for their Foundation Membership of Research Australia. We were delighted that leading research institutes, the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research upgraded their membership to Bronze status and hope this leadership will encourage others to follow.

Our vision of promoting philanthropic support for philanthropy became a reality with the announcement of a \$750,000 grant from the Department of Health and Ageing, along with major support by the Myer Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline. Research Australia Philanthropy is an exciting prospect for 2007-08 and offers great potential for the future of Australian health and medical research.

"Thank You" Day 2006 with a theme of "Then, Now...*Imagine*" took us to new heights, involving many of Australia's most distinguished scientists and allowing the passion and vibrancy of Australian research discovery to reach national audiences. Our thanks to all who gave so much of their time and energy to this flagship program. The continued support of the Macquarie Bank Foundation and the NHMRC has ensured the continued success of "Thank You" Day.

Research Australia looks forward to its next important era as Australia's leading national "whole of community" advocate for health and medical research. We thank each and every one of our members, for everything they have done with us, as we strive to make health and medical research a higher national priority for all Australians.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca James
Chief Executive Officer

research australia strategic framework 2007 – 2011

Research Australia has developed a revised Strategic Framework which will guide our program over the next four years.

Our Mission

To make health and medical research a higher national priority

Our Goals

- A society that is well informed and values the benefits of health and medical research
- Greater investment in health and medical research from government, industry and philanthropy
- Ensure Australia captures the benefits of health and medical research
- Optimise Australia's global position in health and medical research

Strategies

Advocacy

Build awareness, generate recognition, and enlist support of decision-makers to support health and medical research



Connecting

Build productive relationships between research, industry, philanthropy and government



Partnering

Extend the alliance and leverage through effective partnerships



Understanding

Collate data and evidence that demonstrates the benefits and value of health research



Representing

An effective organisation that represents and supports its members



Priorities and Activities

- Profile research success
- Raise awareness of barriers to Australian health and medical research expansion
- Support investment in science education
- Promote policy to national and state agencies
- Effective communications through all avenues, including media
- "Thank You" Day – national campaign
- Build a supporter base of champions in all sectors

- Work with physical sciences and life sciences sectors
- Facilitate connections and networks between membership groups
- Broaden membership base with strong representation from industry and philanthropy, and international agencies
- Strengthen member participation
- Facilitate philanthropic support for health and medical research

- Annual "Thank You" Day partnerships involving joint activities with members
- Alliance partners e.g. AAMRI, ASMR, AusBiotech, Medicines Australia, Research!America, Research Canada
- Support and partner with NHMRC on specific projects

- Understand community attitudes – opinion polls
- Monitor health outcomes and economic studies to inform policy development
- Beyond Discovery 2007 – update of 2004 study
- Promote improved national research funding data set

- Communications and media support
- Events including briefings on major issues
- Research policy formulation
- Effective Board and governance
- Professional staff
- Performance monitoring and evaluation
- Diverse funding sources

the year in focus 2006/07

In 2006/07 Research Australia developed stronger community awareness, provided services to members and built stronger relationships to make health and medical research a higher national priority.

<p>jul 06</p> <p>Member recognition event Research Australia welcomes new members at Government House, Brisbane</p> <p>Submission to the Productivity Commission Review on Science and Innovation Highlighting the importance of health and medical research as a means of generating economic and social benefits</p>		
	<p>nov 06</p> <p>"Thank You" Day 2006 350,000 messages and more than 300 health and medical research media stories. Launch of "Then, Now...Imagine." National card tour to every state and territory</p> 	<p>dec 06</p> <p>Research Australia Public Opinion Poll 2006 81% of Australians approve of the increases in health and medical research funding in the 2006 Budget</p> <p>Extending our reach Research Australia's Melbourne office opens</p>
<p>feb 07</p> <p>Research Australia launches quarterly E-bulletin Reaching more than 1100 members and supporters</p> <p>Pre-Budget member submission 30 member research project submissions submitted to government for consideration</p>		<p>mar 07</p> <p>First university roundtable meeting Bringing together 17 universities from around Australia</p> <p>Research Australia roundtable meetings in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne</p> <p>Visit to Research!America, Research Canada and BIO 2007</p>
<p>apr 07</p> <p>Member recognition event Research Australia welcomes new members at Government House, Melbourne</p> <p>Research Australia roundtable in Brisbane</p> <p>Research Australia Victorian Network Advisory Committee meets for the first time</p>	<p>may 07</p> <p>Federal Budget Federal boost to Australian health and medical research including \$486 million for medical research infrastructure</p>	<p>jun 07</p> <p>Medallion members lunch A special boardroom lunch and networking opportunity in honour of our medallion members</p> <p>Research Australia roundtable meetings in Perth and Adelaide</p>

“Thank You” Day 2006

Research Australia’s “Thank You” Day program is a public awareness campaign recognising the achievements of health and medical researchers whose work saves and improves lives. “Thank You” Day also recognises the work of philanthropists, advocates and corporations for supporting medical research. Research Australia received 350,000 “Thank You” messages and more than 300 health and medical research stories were in the media.

Our “Thank You” Day 2006 Awards recognised seven key individuals/organisations who have greatly contributed to health and medical research in Australia through leadership, innovation, advocacy and philanthropy. The 2006 recipients were honoured at the “Thank You” Day Awards Dinner in Sydney on 14 November 2006. Our warm congratulations to the 2006 award recipients for their inspiring support of health and medical research.

The theme of “Thank You” Day 2006 was “Then, Now... *Imagine.*” The report was launched by Professor Ian Frazer at the Bionic Ear Institute launch of “Thank You” Day in Melbourne. Research Australia asked some of our top scientists to reflect on the past and present, and predict the major developments that will improve our health in the future. We gratefully acknowledge the input of Professor Graeme Clark AC, Professor Peter Doherty AC, Professor Terry Dwyer AO, Professor Ian Frazer, Professor Bob Graham, Sir Gus Nossal AC CBE, Professor John Shine AO, Professor Fiona Stanley AC, Dr Robin Warren AC, Professor Judith Whitworth AC and Dr Fiona Wood AM. Copies of the report are available from Research Australia and can also be downloaded from the Research Australia website.



Leadership and Innovation Award

Sir Gus Nossal AC CBE

Sir Gus Nossal was President (1986-1989) of the 30,000-member world body of immunology, the International Union of Immunological Societies; President of the Australian Academy of Science (1994-1998); a member of the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (1989 to 1998); and Chairman of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (1987-1996). He has been Chairman of the committee overseeing the World Health Organisation’s Vaccines and Biologicals Program (1993-2002) and Chairman of the Strategic Advisory Council of the Bill and Melinda Gates Children’s Vaccine Program (1998-2003). He was founding Chairman of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. Sir Gus has been active in the World Health Organisation (WHO) since 1967.

Sir Gus has written five books and 530 scientific articles. His ground-breaking work on how the immune system works, showing that one cell makes one antibody, underlies the whole field of modern immunology. He was Director of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for 30 years. On the international scene, Sir Gus has been an energetic warrior for improving global health, through his long term involvement with the WHO, particularly as Chairperson of WHO’s Global Program on Vaccines and Immunisation, and more recently the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Macquarie Bank Foundation Great Australian Philanthropy Award

Carlo Salteri AC

Carlo Salteri was a member of the Heart Research Institute’s Board of Governors from 1990 to 1998. In 1998, he established the Heart Research Institute Salteri Family Research Endowment Fund with an initial gift of \$1,000,000. Interest from this fund enables the institute to generate an income stream to underpin ongoing grants and provide support for the running costs of the institute. In 2002, Carlo pledged a further \$100,000 to the institute. In 2006, he committed to make another donation of \$100,000 for two pieces of equipment. He is by far the greatest living philanthropist of the Heart Research Institute.



“ All the care that is provided today is built on research done decades ago. The research that will benefit our children is based on work being done today. ”

PROFESSOR JUDY WHITWORTH AC

Celebrity Advocacy Award

Ricky Ponting

Ricky and Rianna Ponting have shown exceptional support for research into childhood cancer through their involvement with the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia for Medical Research (CCIA) fundraising events since 2002. Despite his punishing cricket touring schedule and other commitments, Ricky maintains personal contact with children who have cancer and those who have recovered. In 2004, "Cricket Rocks - An evening with Ricky Ponting and Friends" was held in both Sydney and Melbourne. The event raised approximately \$200,000 for medical research into childhood cancer. The events were held again in Melbourne and Sydney in 2005 and contributed \$400,000.

Leadership in Corporate Giving Award

L.J. Hooker

In 1998 L.J. Hooker took a corporate decision to enter a long-term relationship with Cystic Fibrosis Australia and raise funds to support the Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust's (ACFRT) medical research program. Since then, some 600 Australian L.J. Hooker offices, with several thousand staff, have been involved in raising funds and public awareness of cystic fibrosis research. Through a range of national and regional fundraising events which include the Great Strides Walkathon, the Celebrity Bear Auction and the "Raising More Dough" cook book, L.J. Hooker has raised more than \$1.5 million for cystic fibrosis research.

Health Research in the Media Award Proudly supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Dr Norman Swan

Dr Norman Swan presents "The Health Report" for Radio National and "Health Minutes" on ABC Newsradio. He is Editor of "The Choice Health Reader" newsletter, creates scientific, medical documentaries for ABC TV, a guest reporter on Four Corners, Australian correspondent for

the Journal of the American Medical Association and consults for the World Health Organisation in Geneva. He has won numerous awards including three Walkley National Awards for Australian journalism, a gold Walkley and the 1988 Australian Writers' Guild Award for best documentary.

National Leadership in Advocacy Award

The Hon Tony Abbott MP

The Hon Tony Abbott MP has displayed both political and personal leadership to support and lead Australian health and medical research. In addition to his political leadership, Mr Abbott has provided both financial and public support for research into diseases such as diabetes and cancer. He established the annual Pollie Pedal in 1996, a unique event involving local, state and federal politicians working with local communities to raise money for charity and participated in numerous other fundraising events including a 100km run with fellow parliamentarian Pat Farmer in August 2005 to raise \$140,000 for cancer-care equipment.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Hon Neville Wran

Mr Wran has been the Chairman of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute since its incorporation as an independent research facility and member of the St. Vincent's Healthcare Campus, in February 1995. Under Mr. Wran's leadership, the Institute has secured the support of many corporate and private donors as well as community leaders and international dignitaries.

Together with the Chairman of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Mr. William Ferris, AO, and the Chairmen of St. Vincent's and Mater Health, Messrs. Peter Joseph, AM and Nick Curtis, he has also worked relentlessly to develop the St. Vincent's Research and Biotechnology Precinct – a precinct involving these three research organisations working cooperatively to form the largest biohub in New South Wales.

then, now... *imagine*

Life expectancy in the developed world has increased by nearly 30 years over the last century, as a result of changes in living conditions and our increased understanding of how to prevent and treat disease.

Research Australia asked some of our top scientists to reflect on the past and consider the medical breakthroughs that have led to the health gains we enjoy today. We also asked them to predict the major developments that will change the state of our health in the near future and to imagine the benefits that further research will bring.

The report predicted that in the future we will be able to:

- Replace damaged organs and tissues using stem cells
- Target illnesses such as cancer at the source using smart drugs
- Combat illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C with new vaccines
- Improve medical bionics to deliver high fidelity hearing for Cochlear implant users and reconnect damaged nerve cells in spinal injuries
- Operate before birth to repair holes in the heart, lung problems and facial malformations, and remove tumours
- Create individual genetic profiles to develop personalised healthcare plans
- Treat degenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease with new drugs that stop the proteins that prevent the brain from healing itself after injury.

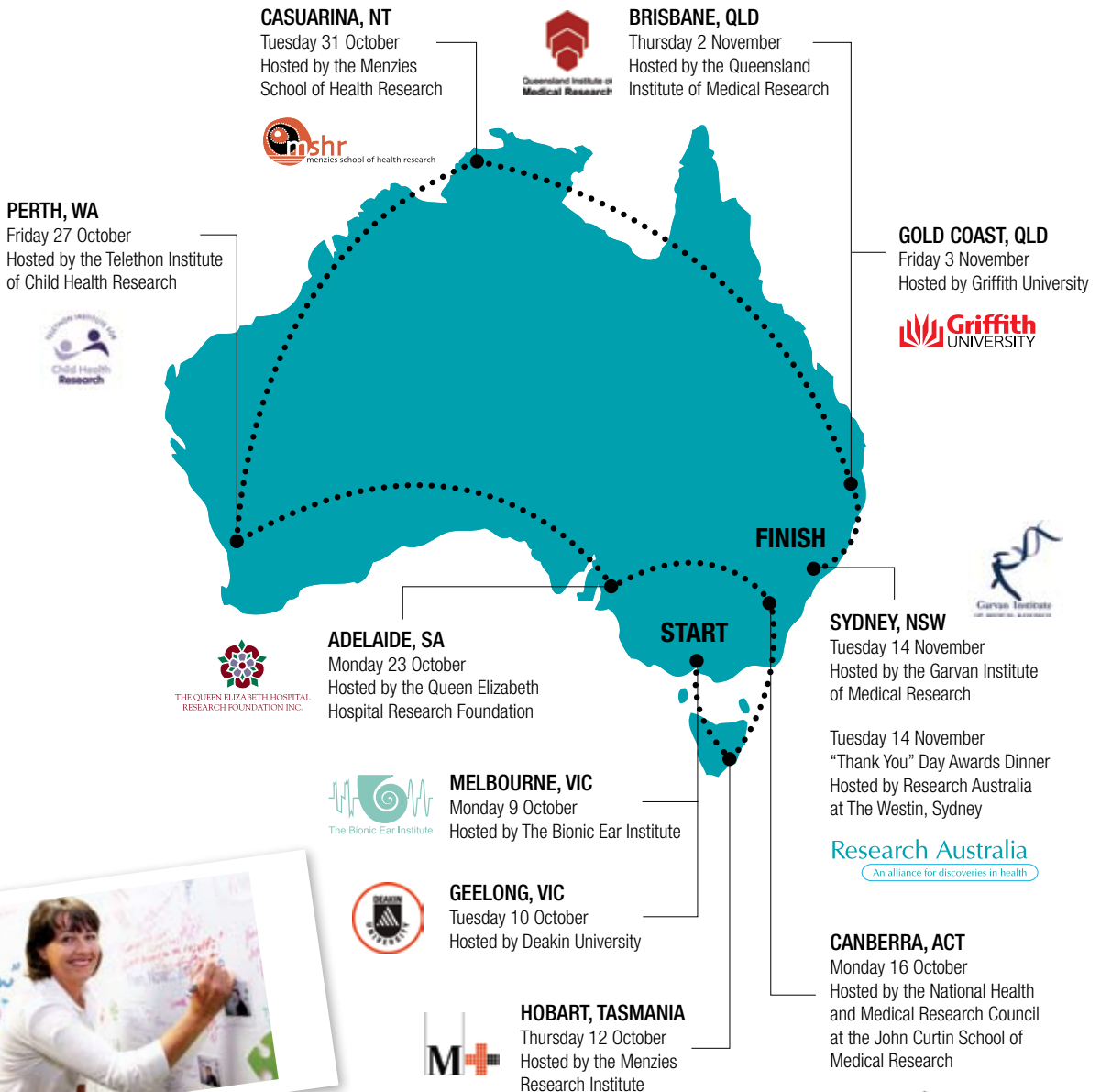


Then, Now... *Imagine*

"Thank You" Day card tour 2006

Each year Research Australia tours the country with a giant "Thank You" card which is signed by celebrities, VIPs and special guests.

"Thank You"
Day



"Thank You" Day 2006 messages

"Thank you on behalf of the government and people of Australia because medical research has not only improved the lives of Australians but also the lives of people around the world but it embodies so much of the idealism which I like to think is part of the Australian character."
 Federal Health Minister, THE HON TONY ABBOTT MP

"If it wasn't for the research... Sophie wouldn't be here today. We've used new technology... that they weren't sure was going to work. Some of that technology is now being used all over the world as today's practice with burns."
 RON DELEZIO

"Thank You" Day

"I want to say thank you to all the medical researchers around the world... Your help brings us a bigger, better, healthier place."
 Essendon footballer, ADAM RAMANAUSKAS

"The symmetry of "Thank You" Day is fantastic. On the one hand thousands of Australians thanking the medical research community for the advances that have been made. On the other hand the researchers - poor blind folks, stumbling around in the dark trying to prise another secret out of nature. It's not easy. Its 5% inspiration 95% perspiration. Now its our chance to thank the community back. That's what's lovely about Research Australia and "Thank You" Day."
 SIR GUS NOSSAL AC AND RESEARCH AUSTRALIA PATRON

"I think a lot of people who are in my position are eternally grateful for researchers and doctors who put their intelligence into giving people like me a future."
 Cancer survivor, MICHAEL JONES

Our "Thank You" Day Supporters

Diamond



Platinum



Gold



Silver



Our "Thank You" Day 2006 Partners



public opinion poll 2006

understanding community opinions on health and medical research

Each year Research Australia conducts a poll to track public opinions and identify views on current and emerging issues. The Research Australia Public Opinion Poll 2006 provided valuable input to Research Australia's communications and marketing program. The findings generated considerable interest by Research Australia members, government, media and the broader community.

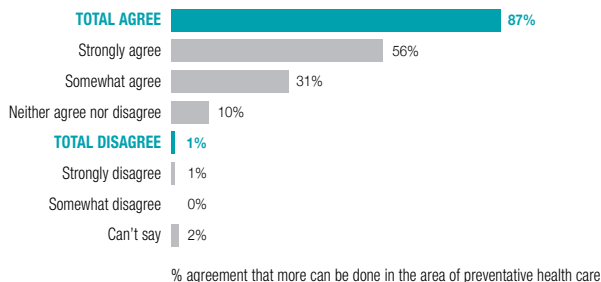
Research Australia's fifth annual Health and Medical Research Public Opinion Poll included questions to understand the strength of support for health and medical research, and in particular to identify the level of support for some major research related issues. Specific questions addressed innovation and industry incentives for emerging health and biotechnology companies, the topical issue of stem cell research and aspects of prevention and the impact of lifestyle on healthy behaviours.

The 2006 Research Australia Public Opinion Poll, conducted by Crosby/Textor found:

- 81% of Australians approve of the increases in health and medical research funding in the 2006 Budget;
- Health and medical research has seen a 4% increase in support as an industry important to Australia's future since 2005 (from 86% to 90% in 2006);
- 80% of Australians agree that the Federal Government should focus more on innovative industries such as health and medical technologies and research;
- The majority of Australians (89%) agree that new discoveries and inventions create new medicines, devices and vaccines, which can benefit people's health and also contribute to Australia's economy; 58% strongly agree, 31% somewhat agree;

- 72% of Australians agree the Federal Government should provide more tax incentives for emerging health and biotechnology companies in Australia to conduct and commercialise their research here;
- 74% of Australians support the use of excess donated embryos from IVF treatment for stem cell research;
- 58% of Australians support therapeutic cloning;
- 87% of Australians think more can be done in terms of preventative health care;
- 78% of Australians approve of mandatory fitness testing for school children to address the issue of childhood obesity;
- 67% of Australians say they will want information on exercise and 66% will want information on nutrition and diet in the next six months;
- 92% of Australians see the Internet as a useful source of information;
- Almost all Australians (96%) say they are aware of the healthy behaviours they should be doing to improve and protect their health;
- 78% of Australians say they understand the health risks they face personally and their own health issues, and are taking the necessary action in terms of healthy behaviours and lifestyles to support their health.

87% of Australians think more can be done in terms of preventative health care. Copies of the report are available from Research Australia and can be downloaded from the Research Australia website.



philanthropy

increasing giving and improving lives

Inspired by the successes of international philanthropy, growing numbers of wealthy people in Australia, and opportunities available by new taxation arrangements, Research Australia has embarked on an ambitious new program to increase giving to health and medical research.

How do you decide where to put your funds to make the greatest impact?

This is a major question many people ask, and one which is difficult to answer.

Research Australia proposes to tackle this through the establishment of a new program that will shed light on the opportunities offered through giving to health and medical research.

The announcement of funding of \$750,000 (over three years) by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing, supported by generous grants from the Myer Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline has been warmly welcomed. The Victorian government is supporting the venture through the provision of office facilities in Collins Street, Melbourne.

Adopting a national focus, Research Australia Philanthropy will promote health and medical research funding to potential private and corporate supporters, provide information and assistance to potential givers to aid their decision making, provide information to researchers on how to develop partnerships with private philanthropy, help Trusts and Foundations decipher complex research grant applications, and facilitate connections across the research, corporate and philanthropic sectors.

Research Australia Philanthropy offers the prospect of new horizons for research partnerships, so generating a stronger research base for Australia, along with the social and economic benefits that characterise Australian research excellence. The program, to be developed and rolled out in 2007-08, will provide many opportunities to engage Research Australia members and provide support and assistance in this rapidly growing area.

Over \$1.5 billion annually is gifted to registered to charities in Australia.

There has been a big rise in individual private funds since the establishment in 2001 of Prescribed Private Funds (PPS), which give tax deductibility for amounts put into a trust, also offer accumulation of earning tax-free and have strict guidelines for donations to approved charities.

“ The public needs to know that evidence-based research is more likely to protect them than anything else. ”

PROFESSOR PETER DOHERTY AC



research australia philanthropy strategic framework 2007 – 2010

Our Mission

To make health and medical research a higher national priority for Australia as a nation and Australians as a community

Our Goals

- Greater investment and support for health and medical research from philanthropic sources
- A culture of giving for health and medical research
- Establish Research Australia Philanthropy as a sustainable program

Strategies

Advocacy

Build awareness, generate recognition, and enlist support of key stakeholders



Priorities and Activities

- Profile philanthropy and HMR success
- Raise awareness of role of HMR philanthropy
- Promote policy to national and state agencies
- Effective communications through all avenues, including media
- Build a supporter base of champions

Connecting

Build productive relationships between givers and seekers



- Identify the giving and seeking population
- Create access tools through the website, assessment resources tools to develop proposals, resource referrals points
- Facilitate connections and networks
- Provide leadership and linkage ie advice bank, affinity group

Partnering

Extend the alliance and leverage through effective partnerships



- Develop alliance partners with key stakeholder groups
- Support and partner with NHMRC on specific projects
- Identify potential national and international partnership support arrangements

eureka!ert!

building a higher international profile for australian health research

Research Australia members submitted more than 216 EurekaAlert! media releases during 2006/2007, which can be viewed on the Research Australia website.

EurekaAlert! is the world's premier website for science, medicine and technology news and is accessed by over 5,000 global news reporters around the world. The Wesley Research Institute's media release "Cure for cancer one step closer" received the most number of hits in April 2007 with 1794 hits.

Top 10 member media releases 2006/2007

1. Cure for cancer one step closer
1794 hits, the Wesley Research Institute, April 2007
2. The lower the blood pressure the better
1768 hits, the George Institute, September 2006
3. It's not fair! We are programmed to resist weight loss
1703 hits, Queensland University of Technology, August 2006
4. Give a fresh start to the health of the next generation of Indigenous Australians
1545 hits, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, November 2006
5. Exposure to sunlight could reduce asthma
1402 hits, Menzies School of Health Research, March 2007
6. Indigenous survey
1177 hits, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, October 2006
7. More than 50% of women drink alcohol when they are pregnant
1034 hits, Griffith University, January 2007
8. Vacuum cleaning ineffective in allergy avoidance
980 hits, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, May 2007
9. Does Omega 3 protect against ADHD?
944 hits, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, December 2006
9. Traditional chinese medicine for Diabetes has scientific backing
944 hits, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, July 2006
10. Successful development of prototype assays
643 hits, PanBio, February 2007



“If the science “sings”
then the path to
commercialisation is
much easier.”

BEYOND DISCOVERY 2007 RESPONDENT

member recognition events

thanking our members and supporters

Two Research Australia member recognition events were held in 2006/7.

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC kindly hosted a member recognition event at Government House in Brisbane on 26 July 2006.

His Excellency Professor David de Kretser AC generously hosted a member recognition event at Government House in Melbourne on 19 April 2007.

Research Australia was delighted to have the opportunity to thank members and donors for their continued support, and welcome new members.

Photo (below) top row: Aron Steg (SMS Central), Shaun Patterson (Australian Air Express) James Gerraty (ASX), Graham Maloney (Macquarie Bank), Kristi Fitzpatrick (the Smile Foundation), Frank Chidiac (Eurocam) Professor Merlin Crossley (University of Sydney).
Bottom row: Shaun Larkin (HCF Foundation) Rebecca James (Research Australia), Professor Warwick Anderson AM (NHMRC), His Excellency Professor David de Kretser AC, Sir Gus Nossal AC CBE, Dr Christine Bennett (MBF Australia), Dr Amanda Caples (Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development).



advocacy to policy makers

submission to productivity commission review

Research Australia's submission to the Productivity Commission Public Support for Science and Innovation Review highlighted the importance of health and medical research as a means of generating economic and social benefits.

The submission provided examples of specific outcomes from research investment, and noted the findings of the 2003 Access Economics report which identified a \$5 return on each dollar invested in health and medical research.

The submission highlighted the importance of continued government support to:

- Further develop leading edge basic science;
- Target gaps or critical emerging areas such as avian influenza;
- Facilitate early stage development to a stage that attracts private investment;
- Support knowledge transfer whether through the market, clinical practice, health system improvements and public health interventions;
- Provide core capabilities and research platforms;
- Expand and attract research talent;
- Simplify and streamline ethics approvals processes.

The submission was supported by Research Australia Public Opinion Poll findings which demonstrate strong public support for health and medical research and the potential to develop research-based industries that will deliver strong social and economic benefits.

The Productivity Commission report, released in March 2007 identified widespread and important economic, social and environmental benefits generated by Australia's \$6 billion public funding support of science and innovation. The Commission concluded that while benefits are likely to exceed costs, "given a host of measurement and methodological issues, it is not possible to provide anything other than broad estimates of the overall return to government contributions."

Research Australia thanks member organisations that contributed to the preparation of the submission.

“ In my father's family of eight, three children died. Now we don't expect children to die. And we expect more than mere survival – we want all children to have the same kind of healthy childhood. ”

PROFESSOR TERRY DWYER AO



summary of financial statements

Statement of financial position – as at 30 June 2007

<i>In thousands of AUD</i>	2007 \$	2006 \$
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,082,614	604,062
Trade and other receivables	596,704	706,734
Total current assets	1,679,318	1,310,796
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	21,729	13,464
Total non-current assets	21,729	13,464
Total assets	1,701,047	1,324,260
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,026,870	757,048
Employee benefits	28,744	4,402
Total current liabilities	1,055,614	761,450
Total liabilities	1,055,614	761,450
Net assets	645,436	562,810
Equity		
Retained earnings	645,436	562,810
Total equity	645,436	562,810

Statement of financial performance – for the year end 30 June 2007

	2007 \$	2006 \$
Revenue	1,239,007	1,021,533
Employee benefits expenses	(535,961)	(584,140)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(12,071)	(19,246)
Marketing, events and intelligence expenses	(324,385)	(243,076)
Travelling expenses	(48,021)	(55,431)
Consultant and contractors expenses	(86,426)	(126,310)
Other expenses	(149,517)	(86,911)
Profit / (Loss) for the year	82,626	(93,581)

Financial information was extracted from the audited Financial Statements of Research Australia Ltd for the year ending 30 June 2007 and is included here for information purposes only. A full copy of Financial Statements, including Notes to the Financial Statements and the Audit Opinions of KPMG have been provided to all financial members. Further copies can be obtained free of charge on request to Research Australia Ltd, 20 Bridge St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

research australia team

Dr Stephanie Williams was appointed as Research Australia's Sydney-based Business and Corporate Affairs Manager in August 2006 and we welcomed events coordinator Samantha Rust in January 2007. We farewelled Kirsten Lodge and Jessica Leach during the year and thank them for their commitment to Research Australia and its goals. Sincere thanks also to PR Consultant Julie Sheather, legal adviser Tim Smyth of DLA Phillips Fox, and Rhys Roberts our financial accountant. Mr Tim Dugan is acknowledged for his contribution as Company Secretary. We thank KPMG for conducting the 2006/07 audit.

“ Good blue-sky science allows you to imagine the unimaginable. ”

PROFESSOR BOB GRAHAM

Photo (from left to right, top row) Kirsten Lodge, Sandra Stanton, Samantha Rust, Rhys Roberts **(from left to right, bottom row)** Stephanie Williams, Rebecca James and Tim Dugan.



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For more information on
Research Australia visit
www.researchaustralia.org

Sydney

The Exchange Centre
20 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

t. +61 2 8298 8365

f. +61 2 9227 0636

e. enquiries@researchaustralia.org

Melbourne

Suite 2 Mezzanine
257 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

t. +61 3 9662 9366

f. +61 3 9639 4126

Research Australia Limited
ABN 28 095 324 379