

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**RESEARCH**  
**AUSTRALIA**  
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH



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## CHAIR FOREWORD

Reflecting on another dynamic year for health and medical research in Australia, it is exciting to consider the many possibilities that advances in government investment, strengthening of sector collaboration and a positive focus on translation of research may bring to the Australian community.

We are positioned on the cusp of great promise but we need more than ever to ensure a strong and united voice from the research sector, industry, health services and the community to inform and support strategic investment and priorities. Research Australia has and will continue to provide a valuable 'whole of community' voice from across our unique alliance and drawing on public opinion.

Research Australia continued its advocacy in a range of areas during the year, including important consultations to help inform the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) strategy. With the MRFF destined to provide an additional \$1 billion per annum for health and medical research in the next few years, Research Australia has been working to ensure that Australians derive the greatest possible benefit from this very significant new investment.

At the beginning of the year, we farewelled Managing Director, Elizabeth Foley, and I would once again like to pay tribute to her dedication and achievements in placing Research Australia in such a strong position coming into 2016. Our new CEO and Managing Director, Ms Nadia Levin, has already demonstrated her enthusiasm for the role, initiating a range of new approaches that will build on our success and ability to contribute to shaping and influencing the health and medical research sector, and focusing on our members priorities.

On behalf of the Board I also thank the Research Australia team for their tireless efforts that have seen another successful year of submissions, consultation with government, the Health and Medical Research Awards, roundtables, webinars, public opinion polling and promoting health research in the media.

My sincere appreciation and thanks to all of my Board colleagues with special mention of Directors who retired during this year: Barry Thomas, Geoff Joyce and Dr Mary Haines. We also welcomed a number of new additions to our Board: Professor Nicholas Fisk, Ms Annette Schmiede and Professor Ian Jacobs. The Research Australia Board has always been

a demonstration of the diversity of our alliance, and our directors all bring with them a unique set of skills, perspectives and experience, providing great depth and breadth to the organisation.

This will be my last report as Chair of Research Australia as I step down from the role and hand over to a new Chair, who along with our CEO will take the helm of this wonderful enterprise. Having been involved with Research Australia since its inception, first in my capacity as CEO from 2002 to 2006, as a Director from 2006 to 2008, and then taking up my current role as Chair in 2010, I have seen the landscape of health and medical research advance and strengthen significantly over this time, in no small part as a result of the powerful and effective advocacy by our alliance.

It has been a privilege to work with so many amazing, passionate advocates over the years. I have been proud to have been part of this organisation for such a long time, and look forward to seeing its success in the future.

Research Australia aims to ensure that health and medical research in Australia flourishes, delivering better health care, health outcomes

and economic prosperity into the future. Importantly, research brings the only hope and support to so many.

I will of course remain a committed champion of health and medical research and its importance to the health, hope and prosperity of Australians, to support Research Australia as I have done for these past decades and watch with pride as the alliance grows from strength to strength. I look forward to celebrating the many successes yet to come.

**Professor Christine Bennett AO**  
Chair, Research Australia

## CEO FOREWORD

When I joined Research Australia earlier this year, it was with a focus on connecting with the amazing talent within our sector and to leverage those efforts for the best possible health and economic outcomes. There is no doubt that the Research Australia membership has the tenacity and drive to effect real change in our sector as well as the appetite to do so, and the first few months have seen an energetic welcome into that space.

From the outset I would like to say thank you to all who have welcomed me in making this a successful transition. This includes Elizabeth Foley, from whom I took over at the beginning of this year, and to the Chair and Directors, I would like to say thank you for the warm and supportive welcome and of course I'd also like to acknowledge the RA team who have kept things moving.

The ability to appropriately grow an organisation relies on a true understanding of its roots, and for me, the 2015 Research Australia Awards offered that. It was my first opportunity to meet the extended Research Australia family – our alliance members and their inspiring staff. The Awards represent an opportunity to recognise those who are not always in the spotlight, and it was a great honour to be part of the celebration of our 2015 Award winners. The Awards demonstrate the

strength of the alliance, and the tireless work that is being carried out across the country by our members.

Our Research Australia annual opinion poll, now in its 14th year, provides great insight into the hearts and minds of Australians. This year we saw continuing strong public support for health and medical research funding. Additionally, strong support was found for the Medical Research Future Fund, improving hospitals and healthcare systems, and increasing funding programs for preventative health. The role of technology in managing wellness also became clear, as some 75 per cent of regular users are willing to share the data collected on their activity tracking devices with researchers.

Looking to the insights from the polls and maintaining communication with our members enables Research Australia to continue to provide informed advice in our consultations on policy. This year we have witnessed one of the most significant developments in the sector for many years, with the establishment of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) in August 2015. This followed a Senate Inquiry, to which Research Australia made several recommendations that were subsequently adopted in the final legislation. Initial funding has been transferred to the MRFF and its

balance continues to grow. The MRFF Advisory Group was appointed in April and commenced consultations on the initial Strategy and Priorities soon after.

Research Australia was well placed to participate in the consultation process, as we had already conducted our own extensive consultation with our membership in late 2015. We continue to engage with the Minister's office and the Department of Health and we look forward to initial funding being provided in 2016/17. Research Australia continued to be active in relation to a range of other policy discussions during the year, and these submissions are covered in more detail in the body of this report.

The only constant in this world is the inevitability of change, and the health and medical research sector is no exception. As pace quickens and demand for research outcomes grows, our sector, and Research Australia, must adapt. Over the past year we have strategically planned to position this organisation for the future - into the next phase of its existence, and the next phase of its success.

While there are many areas of importance, Research Australia is currently focusing on three key themes to direct and shape our activities:

- Harnessing the transformative power of data as a national resource.
- Embedding evidence based research in the healthcare system to improve outcomes.
- Smarter investment in health and medical research as part of the knowledge economy and a driver of GDP.

I look forward to working across our membership to drive bold and creative ideas that will influence all of our futures in some way, shape or form.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging Professor Christine Bennett AO who will be relinquishing her role as Chair of Research Australia. Professor Bennett has been at the helm of Research Australia for many years, and has been a significant contributor to our success. She has brought considerable knowledge and expertise to the organisation, and has been an effective champion of Research Australia's initiatives and advocacy. On behalf of the Research Australia Board and team, I would like to sincerely thank Professor Bennett for all she has done as we prepare for the future. I look forward to continuing the great tradition of championing the cause for health and medical research on behalf of and with our strong alliance.

**Nadia Levin**  
CEO & Managing Director,  
Research Australia

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

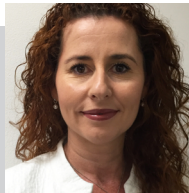
Research Australia's Board has a balanced and effective composition. Its membership contains deep knowledge and experience of medical industry associations, medical research institutes, universities, philanthropic foundations, and companies complemented with professional expertise from business, finance, law, consumer advocacy, public policy and philanthropy.



**Chairman**  
**Prof Christine Bennett AO**  
*Dean*  
The University of Notre Dame Australia



**Deputy Chairman**  
**Mr Peter Wills AC**  
*Chairman*  
Biomedical Translation Fund  
Committee



**Ms Nadia Levin**  
*Managing Director*  
Research Australia Ltd



**Dr Alison Butt**  
*Senior Scientific Officer*  
Cancer Australia



**Prof Brendan Crabb AC**  
*Director & Chief Executive Officer*  
Burnet Institute



**Ms Shelley Evans**  
*Principal*  
Consilium



**Prof Nicholas Fisk**  
*Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)*  
University of New South Wales



**Mr Andrew Giles**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Garvan Research Foundation



**Prof Richard Head**  
*(Former) Inaugural Director,  
Future Industries Institute*  
University of South Australia



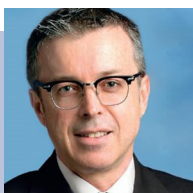
**Prof Ian Jacobs**  
*President and Vice-Chancellor*  
University of New South Wales



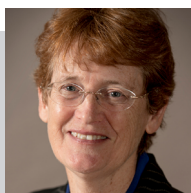
**Assoc Prof Greg Kaplan**  
*Chief Operating Officer*  
Ingham Institute



**Dr Anna Lavelle**  
*(Former) Chief Executive Officer*  
AusBiotech



**Prof John McGrath AM**  
*Executive Director*  
Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research



**Prof Alexandra McManus**  
*(Former) Director*  
Centre of Excellence for Science,  
Seafood & Health, Curtin University



**Dr Andrew Nash**  
*Senior Vice President, Research*  
CSL Limited



**Dr Adrian Nowitzke**  
*(Former) Head of Informatics*  
Telstra Health



**Ms Annette Schmiede**  
*Executive Leader*  
Bupa Health Foundation



## 2015 HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

In November 2015 at the Park Hyatt Melbourne, the Research Australia Health & Medical Research Awards celebrated the accomplishments of 8 extraordinary Australians. These amazing people have made invaluable contributions to Australian health and medical research through ongoing advocacy, groundbreaking research and discovery, or generous philanthropic donations that continue to make innovation possible.

In its 13th year, the Research Australia Awards saw a number of outstanding Australians celebrated, including Connie and Sam Johnson, Founders of the Love Your Sister campaign who aim to raise \$10 million for breast cancer research and Professor Sharon Lewin from the Peter Doherty Institute who received the night's most prestigious award – the Peter Wills Medal. Professor Lewin's leadership in science and her HIV research is renowned globally as the world continues its search for a cure.

### 2015 AWARD WINNERS

#### **Griffith University Discovery Award**

Dr Andrew Gardner

#### **AskRIGHT Great Australian Philanthropy Award**

Mr John Gandel AO & Mrs Pauline Gandel

#### **Advocacy Award**

Connie Johnson & Samuel Johnson, Love Your Sister

#### **Victorian Government Health Services Research Award**

Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite

#### **Cook Medical Lifetime Achievement Award**

Professor Perry Bartlett

#### **Peter Wills Medal**

Professor Sharon Lewin

***Thank-you to our generous sponsors  
who make this great event possible.***

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## RESEARCH AUSTRALIA PUBLIC OPINION POLL

The **2016 Opinion Poll** once again reflects the high value individuals place on the importance of investment in health and medical research. We think the reason for this is clear.

Australians understand the link between health and medical research and better healthcare. They believe the single most important thing we can do to improve our health system is to base healthcare on the best and most recent research.

In the year in which the Medical Research Future Fund is to provide its first funding for medical research and innovation, it has Australians' overwhelming support. The focus of the MRFF on research to improve healthcare fits well with the public's expectations of health and medical research and its relationship with our health system.

A fascinating area of development in contemporary society is the use of technology. Information is abundant and as individuals we are feeling empowered. Health technology has traditionally been associated with care in hospitals with things like: X-rays, MRIs, heart rate monitors and key hole surgery with miniature cameras. Health technology has also advanced into our homes, with 'CPAP' machines to assist snorers, home dialysis and digital glucose monitors. More recently we have seen the rise of smart phones with health apps, and the evolution of the humble pedometer into today's activity tracking devices.

These are part of a new trend towards individuals using technology to manage their own health and fitness, and our polling explores the scope for this technology to contribute to health and medical research. We also identify an opportunity for medical practitioners, doctors and patients to make greater use of the internet for referrals to trusted information.



# UNIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

The Research Australia University Roundtable provides a strong and focused forum for Research Australia's university members to discuss issues relating to health and medical research that are particular to universities and together, seek potential solutions for further advocacy.

Membership of the Roundtable consists of individuals nominated by their university.

The Roundtable meets four times annually.

<b>Prof Patrick Heaven</b>	Dean of Research	<a href="#">Australian Catholic University</a>
<b>Prof Kieran Kirk</b>	Dean, College of Medicine, Biology & Environment	<a href="#">Australian National University</a>
<b>Prof Helen Chenery</b>	Executive Dean Health Sciences & Medicine	<a href="#">Bond University</a>
<b>Prof Graeme Wright</b>	Deputy Vice Chancellor Research	<a href="#">Curtin University of Technology</a>
<b>Prof Trish Livingston</b>	Associate Dean, Research Faculty of Health	<a href="#">Deakin University</a>
<b>Prof John Finlay-Jones</b>	Deputy Vice Chancellor Research	<a href="#">Edith Cowan University</a>
<b>Prof David Shum</b>	Dean Research (Health)	<a href="#">Griffith University</a>
<b>Prof Lyn Griffiths</b>	Executive Director	<a href="#">QUT Institute of Health &amp; Biomedical Innovation</a>
<b>Prof Rhondda Jones</b>	Emeritus Professor	<a href="#">James Cook University</a>
<b>Prof Patrick McNeil</b>	Executive Dean Medicine & Health Sciences	<a href="#">Macquarie University</a>
<b>Prof Ross Coppel</b>	Director Research & Senior Deputy Dean Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences	<a href="#">Monash University</a>
<b>Prof Scott Holmes</b>	Deputy Vice Chancellor & Vice President Research & Development	<a href="#">Western Sydney University</a>
<b>Assoc Prof Michael Dodson</b>	Associate Dean Melbourne Clinical School	<a href="#">University of Notre Dame Australia</a>
<b>Prof John Eisman</b>	Associate Dean Clinical Leadership & Research	<a href="#">University of Notre Dame Australia</a>
<b>Prof Janet Hiller</b>	Dean School of Health Sciences	<a href="#">Swinburne University of Technology</a>
<b>Prof Rachel Davey</b>	Director Health Research Institute	<a href="#">University of Canberra</a>
<b>Prof Mary Wlodek</b>	Associate Dean (Research) Director Research Development	<a href="#">University of Melbourne</a>
<b>Prof Dominic Geraghty</b>	Deputy Dean Graduate Research	<a href="#">University of Tasmania</a>
<b>Prof Rob Sanson-Fisher</b>	Director Priority Research Centre for Health Behaviour	<a href="#">University of Newcastle</a>
<b>Prof Christina Lee</b>	Associate Dean (Research) Health & Behavioural Sciences	<a href="#">University of Queensland</a>
<b>Prof Richard Head</b>	Chair of the University Roundtable, Inaugural Director, Future Industries Institute	<a href="#">University of South Australia</a>
<b>Prof Laurent Rivory</b>	Pro Vice Chancellor Strategic Collaborations & Partnerships	<a href="#">University of Sydney</a>
<b>Prof Jenny Beck</b>	Associate Dean (Research) Science, Medicine & Health	<a href="#">University of Wollongong</a>
<b>Prof Geraldine Mackenzie</b>	Deputy Vice Chancellor Research	<a href="#">Southern Cross University</a>
<b>Prof Liz Sullivan</b>	Assistant Deputy Vice Chancellor Research	<a href="#">University of Technology Sydney</a>

# RESEARCH AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS

## **Safety & Quality in Healthcare Standards**

October 2015

## **Health Data Sets – linkage and access**

November 2015

## **Inquiry into Tax Deductibility**

December 2015

## **Pre Budget Submission 2016**

December 2015

## **Proposed reduction in Minimum Distributions for Ancillary Funds opposed**

February 2016

## **Tax Incentives for early stage investors**

February 2016

## **R&D Tax Incentive Review**

March 2016

## **Consultation on MRFF Strategy and Priorities**

June 2016

## **National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions**

June 2016

## **Public Sector Data Availability and Use**

August 2016

## **Review of NHMRC funding programs**

August 2016

## **R&D Tax Incentive- proposed reduction opposed**

September 2016

## **Roadmap for Research Infrastructure**

September 2016



## GOALS

## MISSION & GOALS

### MISSION

To make health and medical research a higher priority for the nation.

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

Ensure Australia captures the benefits of health and medical research

Promote Australia's global position in health and medical research



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### ORIGINAL FOUNDATION MEMBERS

- Australian Stock Exchange
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia
- Eli Lilly Australia
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Merck Sharpe & Dohme Australia
- Novartis Australia
- Pfizer Australia
- ResMed
- The Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- Johnson & Johnson
- HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation
- Bupa Health Foundation

### FOUNDATION DONORS

- Dame Elisabeth Murdoch
- The Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- The Perpetual Foundation
- Mrs Margaret Ainsworth

It would not be possible to deliver on our mission without the generous support of the following:

- Garvan Institute of Medical Research
- Australian Catholic University
- KPMG: Cameron Slapp
- Baryon Consulting: Greg Storr
- University of Notre Dame Australia: Clare Stanford
- Donnolley Rush: Sabina Donnolley
- Dibbs Barker

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## RESEARCH AUSTRALIA MEDALLION MEMBERS

### FOUNDATION



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### PLATINUM



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### GOLD



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### SILVER



## BRONZE

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Australian National University

Baker IDI  
HEART & DIABETES INSTITUTE

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cancer institute  
NSW

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Hunter Medical Research Institute

QUT ihbi  
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY  
AUSTRALIA

MACQUARIE

MACQUARIE University  
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

MTAA Medical Technology  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute  
Healthier Kids. Healthier Future.

NeuRA  
Discover. Conquer. Cure.

NOVARTIS

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

Queensland Government

Roche

Southern Cross University

St Vincent's Health Australia

SWINBURNE  
SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The Sydney children's Hospitals Network  
care, advocacy, research, education

THE FLOREY  
INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE & MENTAL HEALTH

THE GEORGE INSTITUTE  
for Global Health AUSTRALIA

THE HEARING CRC

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Walter+Eliza Hall  
Institute of Medical Research

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

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# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Research Australia is financially sound and has met all of its financial obligations. Its main source of income continues to be from membership and sponsorship.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016	2015
			\$
Revenue	4	798,574	808,726
Employee benefits expense	5	(578,189)	(550,635)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9	(9,068)	(7,266)
Marketing and events expense		(72,206)	(54,902)
Travelling expenses		(52,870)	(55,435)
Consultancy and contractor expense		(132,915)	(195,578)
Administrative expenses		(87,845)	(86,946)
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>(933,093)</b>	<b>(950,762)</b>
Finance income		19,470	32,470
Finance expenses		(2,403)	(2,130)
<b>Net finance income</b>		<b>17,067</b>	<b>30,340</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<b>(117,452)</b>	<b>(111,696)</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>		<b>(117,452)</b>	<b>(111,696)</b>

Financial information was extracted from the audited Financial Statement of Research Australia Ltd for the year ending 30 June 2016 and is included here for information purposes only. A full copy of the Financial Statements including Notes to the Financial Statements and the Audit opinions of KPMG are available on request to Research Australia Ltd.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016

	Note	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	335,499	526,508
Short term deposits	7	366,175	496,362
Trade and other receivables	8	436,637	256,748
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,138,311</b>	<b>1,279,618</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	19,063	18,555
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>19,063</b>	<b>18,555</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,157,374</b>	<b>1,298,173</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	554,328	580,118
Employee benefits	14	26,226	23,783
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>580,554</b>	<b>603,901</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>580,554</b>	<b>603,901</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>576,820</b>	<b>694,272</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	12	576,820	694,272
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>576,820</b>	<b>694,272</b>

Financial information was extracted from the audited Financial Statement of Research Australia Ltd for the year ending 30 June 2016 and is included here for information purposes only. A full copy of the Financial Statements including Notes to the Financial Statements and the Audit opinions of KPMG are available on request to Research Australia Ltd.



# RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

[www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org)

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MELBOURNE VIC 3000