



**RESEARCH
AUSTRALIA**
CONNECTING • ENGAGING • INFLUENCING

Annual Report
2016-2017



Research Australia is *the* national alliance representing the **entire health and medical research pipeline** from the laboratory through to the patient and the marketplace.



As I complete my first year as Chair of Research Australia, I can report that immersing myself in the health and medical research sector has been both exciting and enlightening. Exploring this sector through Research Australia's lens has enabled me to see the entire research pipeline from the laboratory through to the patient and the marketplace. Our membership draws representation from the whole pipeline, and this breadth is our key strength.

Australia's health and medical research is world class and there is no doubt that innovation in this sector has the potential to make a significant contribution to Australia's future prosperity. We are stronger as a collective and it is incumbent on us all to ensure that the role health and medical research can play in creating a healthier community and a sustainable knowledge-based economy is recognised and supported. To this end, Research Australia has committed much of the last year to developing its Collaborative Strategy, which sets out our role over the medium term in leading the Australian health and medical research sector's response to real and emerging challenges and opportunities. As its name indicates, it is a strategy and has been developed collaboratively, with extensive input from our membership and other stakeholders. I would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to its development.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank our Managing Director, Nadia Levin, and her Research Australia team for their tireless efforts that have seen another successful

year of submissions, consultations with government and delivering real value to our membership base, the Health and Medical Research Awards, University Roundtables and Public Opinion Polling.

My sincere appreciation and thanks to all my Board colleagues for welcoming me so warmly into the role of Chair with special mention to my predecessor, Professor Christine Bennett AO, and to the other Directors who retired during last year: Dr Anna Lavelle, Professor Richard Head, Professor John McGrath AM and Dr Adrian Nowitzke.

I look forward to Research Australia continuing to champion the sector, inspire the public and encourage government and private sector support and investment.



Chris Chapman
Chair, Research Australia



CEO foreword

The past year has been pivotal for health and medical research in Australia with new funding opportunities like the Medical Research Future Fund and the Biomedical Translation Fund coming online. So too, the change in of policy settings such as structural reform of grant programs in the national funding body, the NHMRC and the shift toward embracing a digital health future.

It is against this backdrop that Research Australia has examined its role in the health and medical research landscape. With a proud history over the past 15 years, it has been incredibly informative to ask our valuable alliance members and partners what we should focus on now to enable the future we talk about.

Research Australia is in the unique position of being the trusted voice of health and medical research across the research pipeline. There is always much that can be done but our extensive consultation saw three areas emerge as fundamental drivers of our future:

- ◆ Data as a national resource
- ◆ Embedding research in Australia's health system
- ◆ Smarter investment in health and medical research

Our annual **Australia Speaks | Opinion Polling** has been asking Australians for their opinions on health and medical research and its role in our society since 2003. For the 14th year in a row, improving hospitals and healthcare remains Australians' number one funding priority for the Australian Government. There was also strong support for the use of personal health information for research purposes; and we learned researchers are trusted with our health information almost as much as the health professionals we rely on to treat us.

Exploring the translation of research discoveries in our 2017 poll, we asked the public how much they think it costs, on average, for research and development of a new medicine. 37 per cent estimated the cost to be between \$1 to \$10 million as opposed to the actual estimated cost of \$3.5 billion. There is still a lot of work to be done by Research Australia and our alliance members to provide or point to this critical knowledge that HMR is expensive and complex but also to celebrate and share the amazing discoveries of hope along the way.

Nadia Levin

CEO and Managing Director

Following our extensive involvement in the consultation process and establishment of the **Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)** during 2015, we welcomed the first allocation of funding announced as part of the federal budget 2016/17, with \$65.9 million available during this period. And the Government continues to deliver on its promise to achieve the target of \$20 billion in capital for the MRFF by 2020-21.

Over the past 12 months Research Australia has continued its focus on building relationships with State and Commonwealth governments and the use of our neutral position representing the whole of sector provides tremendous opportunities to engage with the policy makers and policy settings that are so crucial to encouraging and translating research excellence.

Research Australia's achievements over the past twelve months would not have been possible without our strong alliance of members and their support and enthusiastic commitment to Research Australia, I am

also deeply appreciative of the support of the Research Australia Chair Chris Chapman and fellow Directors and the trust they afford me as we steer Research Australia into the next stage of its existence. I am also excited by the opportunities afforded to the organisation and I look forward to working with you to unlock the full potential of Australia's health and medical research opportunities.



Nadia Levin
CEO & Managing Director
Research Australia



Board of Directors

Our 13 directors are leaders in their fields, across the research pipeline, both public and private sectors. Thank you to the 2016/17 Board of Directors for your passion and contribution to Research Australia and the sector.

Outgoing Directors for 2016/17

- Professor Christine Bennett AO who relinquished her role as Chair of Research Australia in November 2016. Professor Bennett was at the helm of Research Australia from 2009 and has been a significant contributor to its success.
- Dr Anna Lavelle, (Former) Chief Executive Officer, AusBiotech Ltd, resigned in August 2016 after serving five valued years as a director with Research Australia.
- Professor Richard Head, (Former) Inaugural Director, Future Industries Institute, University of South Australia, resigned in November 2016 after serving three years as a director with Research Australia.
- Professor John McGrath AM, Executive Director, Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research, resigned in November 2016 after serving three years as a director with Research Australia.
- Dr Adrian Nowitzke, (Former) Head of Informatics, Telstra Health, resigned in August 2016 with Professor Mary Foley AM, Managing Director of Telstra Health, joining the Board in August 2017.



Mr Chris Chapman

Chair since November 2016
President, International
Institute of Communications
Director since August 2016



Mr Peter Wills AC

Deputy Chair
Director, Wills
Advisory Pty Ltd
Director since 2000



Ms Nadia Levin

Chief Executive Officer
& Managing Director,
Research Australia
Director since January 2016



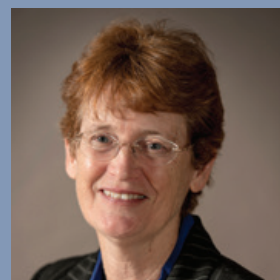
Prof Nicholas Fisk
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research), University
of NSW
Director since
December 2015



**Ms Annette
Schmiede**
Executive Leader, Bupa
Health Foundation
Director since
August 2015



**Prof Brendan
Crabb AC**
Chief Executive Officer,
Burnet Institute
Director since
November 2014



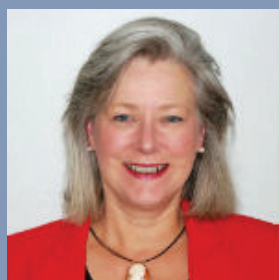
**Prof Alexandra
McManus**
(Former) Director, Centre of
Excellence in Science Seafood
& Health, Curtin University
Director since November 2012



**Assoc. Prof
Greg Kaplan**
Chief Operating Officer,
Ingham Institute
Director since
November 2014



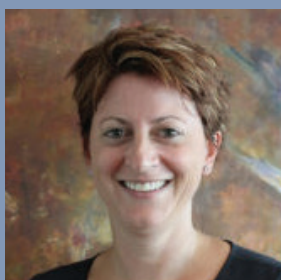
Prof Ian Jacobs
President & Vice-
Chancellor, University of
NSW
Director since
March 2016



Ms Shelley Evans
Principal, Consilium
Director since
November 2012



Andrew Giles
Chief Executive Officer,
Garvan Research Foundation
Director since November 2014



Dr Alison Butt
Senior Scientific
Officer, Cancer
Australia
Director since
November 2011



Dr Andrew Nash
Senior Vice President –
Research, CSL Limited
Director since
November 2013



A collaborative strategy

Following extensive consultation with our sector and detailed consideration and feedback from Research Australia Directors, the Collaborative Strategy was finalised and approved in June 2017.

The Vision, Mission and Goals

Refreshing Research Australia's Vision, Mission and Goals and Value Proposition has been an important part of redefining a role for Research Australia which both reflects what our sector wants us to be doing and demonstrates how we will lead the health and medical research (HMR) sector in the future.

Our vision

Research Australia envisions a world where Australia unlocks the full potential of its world-leading health and medical research sector to deliver the best possible healthcare and global leadership in health innovation.

Our mission

To use our unique convening power to position health and medical research as a significant driver of a healthy population and contributor to a healthy economy.

Our goals

Connect researchers, funders and consumers to increase investment in health and medical research from all sources.

Engage Australia in a conversation about the health benefits and economic value of its investment in health and medical research.

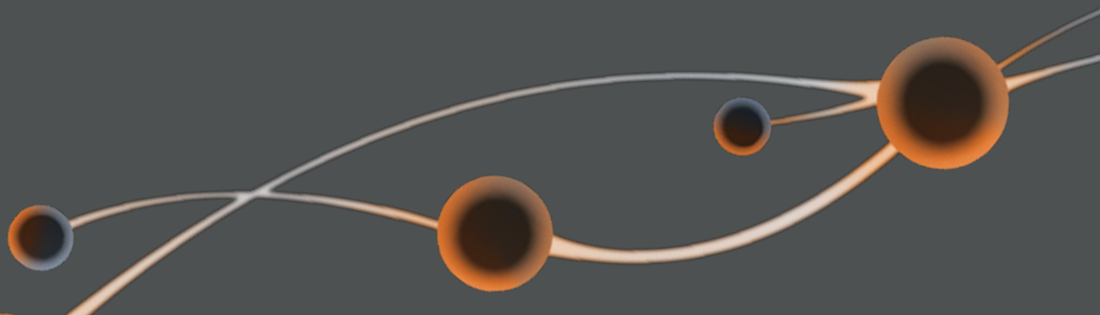
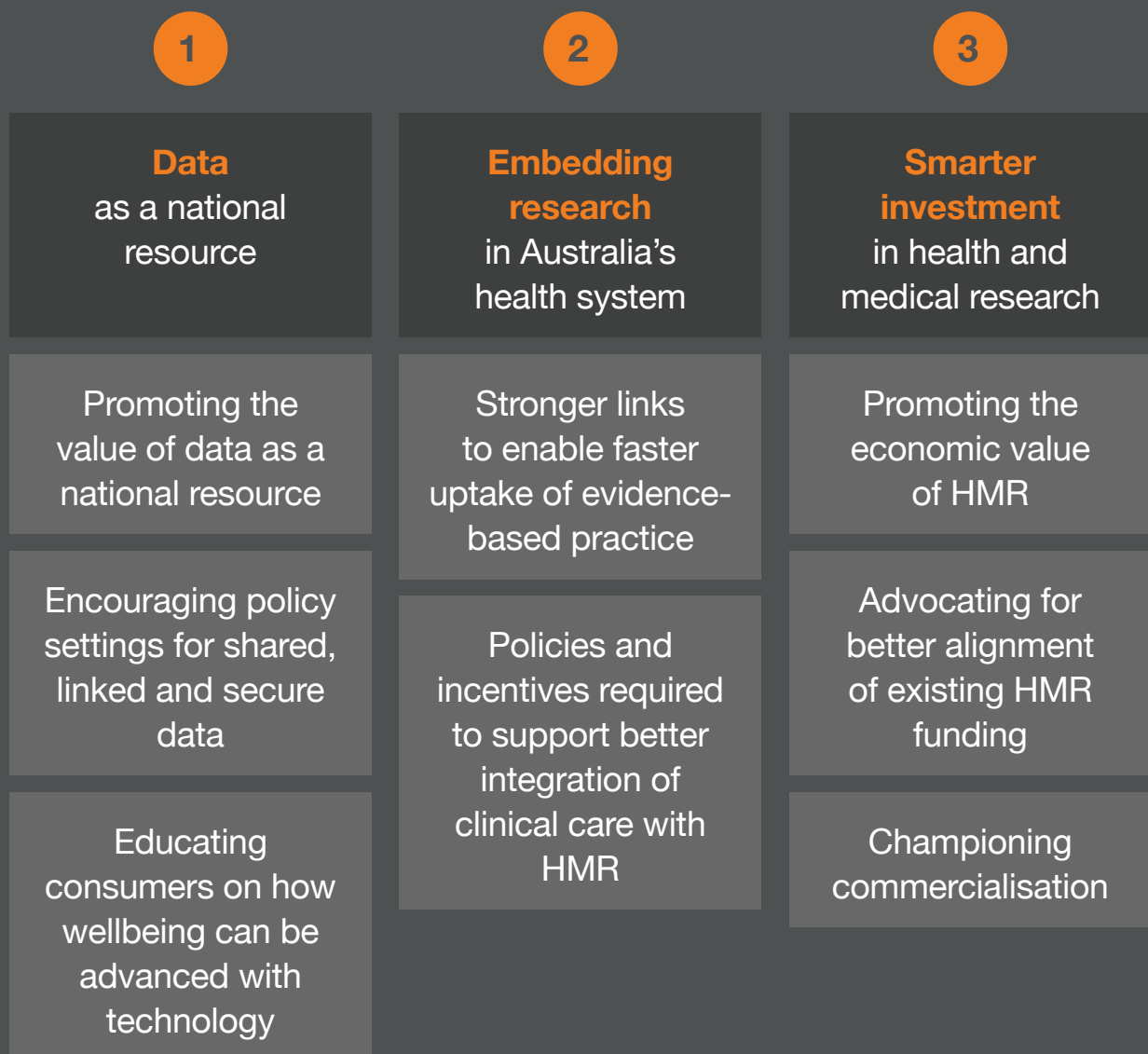
Influence government policies that support effective health and medical research and its routine translation into evidence-based practices and better health outcomes.

A collaborative strategy – priority projects

There are multiple projects which will be rolled out over the next 5 years in support of the key strategic objectives.

At any given time, we run a multitude of campaigns, policy projects and thought leadership programs. We are always open to hearing from organisations (members or otherwise) who are interested in partnering with us.

Three priority areas that look at key strategic objectives and actions and already underway include;



Engage - 2016 Health and Medical Research Awards

The Research Australia Awards have, for more than a decade, showcased the incredible efforts and achievements of individuals and teams who make the difference to all our lives through their contribution to health and medical research. Each year we invite individuals, teams and organisations to nominate for one of seven Award Categories.

The efforts made by these incredible people who drive and support the opportunities

that health and medical research and innovation brings to Australians, sees them challenge science every day.

Acknowledging their talent and excellence is a key part of Research Australia's role in advocacy for the sector. It is also paramount to encouraging future generations of great researchers and those who support them.

We are honoured and inspired by the quality of all the nominations and congratulate the nominees, finalists and winners.

2016 AWARD WINNERS

Advocacy Award

Brenda King

Data Innovation Award

Capital Markets CRC
Health Market Quality Team

Griffith University Discovery Award

Dr Rebecca Coll

Great Australian Philanthropy Award

McCusker Charitable Foundation

Health Services Award

Prof Michael Barton OAM

Leadership in Corporate Giving

Volvo Car Australia

Peter Wills Medal

Prof Ian Gust AO





Research Australia would like to thank our wonderful supporters and partners of the 2016 Health and Medical Research Awards; Bupa Health Foundation, GSK, Griffith University, UNSW and Victoria State Government.

For information about previous Award winners and the 2017 Awards, please see www.researchaustralia.org



Connect – Research Australia’s University Roundtable

The Research Australia University Roundtable provides a forum for Research Australia’s university members to identify and advance current issues for universities in health and medical research, encourage engagement between universities and the broader HMR sector, and provide

information and advice to the Research Australia Board.

The Roundtable met four times during the year, in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Presentations and presenters to the Roundtable in the period included:

Universities responding to change	Professor Alan Pettigrew,
	Professorial Fellow, L.H. Martin Institute at the University of Melbourne.
Peer review and funding: regression to the mean	Professor John Mattick AO,
	Executive Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research
Identifying fraud in research publications	Professor Jennifer Byrne,
	University of Sydney and Head of the Children’s Cancer Research Unit, Kids Research Institute at the Children’s Hospital, Westmead
Structural Review of the NHMRC grant programmes and the evolution of the NHMRC’s relationship with the MRFF	Professor Anne Kelso AO,
	Chief Executive Officer, National Health and Medical Research Council
Evidence based medicine and the MBS Review	Professor Bruce Robinson AM,
	Chair, National Health and Medical Research Council Chair, MBS Review Taskforce
	Co-Head, Cancer Genetics Kolling Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney

The Roundtable is chaired by Professor Nick Fisk, University of NSW representative and Research Australia Director. Membership of the Roundtable consists of individuals nominated by their university.



Influence – Research Australia Public Opinion Poll

As major stakeholders in health and medical research, Australians' opinions count. The 2017 Opinion Poll once again highlighted the importance Australians place on improving hospitals and healthcare, rating this the number one priority for the Australian

Government for the past fifteen polls. The views of Australians will continue to shape our strategies and priorities into the future and assist us to ensure that a healthy population and healthy economy go hand in hand.

In 2017, we asked a series of questions about clinical trials, including Australians' willingness to participate in a clinical trial if they needed treatment.



56% indicated they would definitely or probably do so.

Only 4% would probably or definitely refuse.



A further 38% indicated they would need further information.

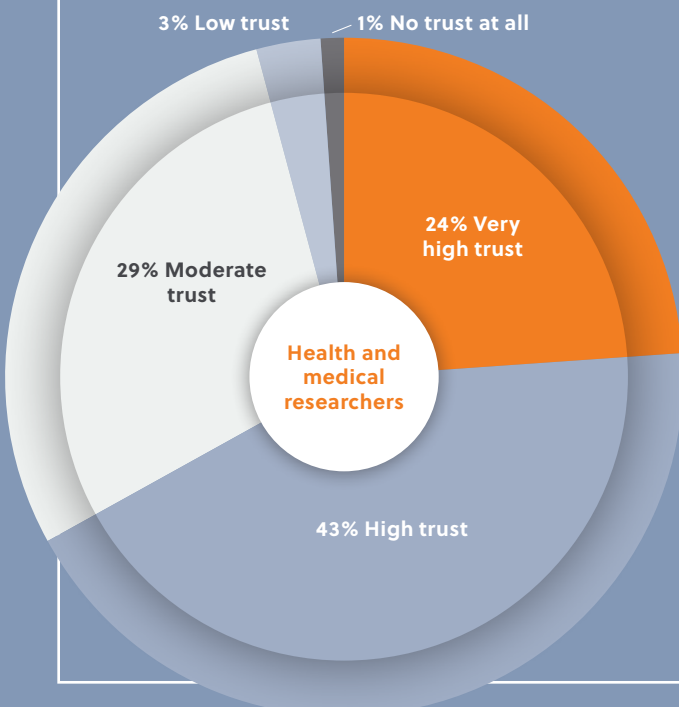
DEVELOPING NEW DRUGS

Dollars to develop a new medicine

It is estimated on average to be \$3.5 billion.
37% of respondents estimated the cost to be \$1 - \$10 million and 34% \$11 to \$100 million.

Time to develop a new medicine

Estimated to take between 10 and 15 years
53% of respondents made an estimate of more than 10 years.



Roy Morgan
Research

Research Australia would like to thank Roy Morgan Research, a Research Australia Member, for generously conducting the polling for this report.

For the full results of the 2017 Public Polling go to www.researchaustralia.org

Influence - Research Australia government submissions

Research Australia uses our unique convening power to position health and medical research as a significant driver of a healthy population and contributor to a healthy economy. One way we do this is through the submissions we make to governments.

As the list below testifies, the range of topics vary across our three strategic themes of Data as a National Resource, Embedding Research in Australia's Health System and Smarter Investment in HMR. What they have in common is the potential for changes in each of these policy areas to advance the health and medical research sector, improve health outcomes and boost our economy.

To highlight a couple of outcomes, Research Australia's submission in response to the draft Fifth National Mental Health Plan highlighted the Plan's failure to include health and medical research. The revised Final Plan

better incorporates the many ways in which health and medical research can contribute to better mental health and safer, more effective and efficient provision of mental health services.

Many of Research Australia's proposals to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Public Sector Data Availability and Use were reflected in the Productivity Commission's Final Report. Research Australia's advocacy to the Government continues, to see these recommendations implemented; their potential to transform our understanding of Australians' health is enormous.

For copies of Research Australia submissions visit researchaustralia.org/category/submissions/.

We also publish a list of current consultations; visit researchaustralia.org/advocacy/current-consultations/.

August 2016	Public Sector Data Availability and Use Review of NHMRC funding programs
September 2016	R&D Tax Incentive- proposed reduction opposed Roadmap for Research Infrastructure
October 2016	Response to R&D Tax Incentive Review
December 2016	Draft Fifth National Mental Health Plan Response to Productivity Commission Data Availability Draft Report Pre-Budget Submission to the Australian Treasurer
January 2017	Response to Chief Scientist's Research Infrastructure Draft Roadmap
February 2017	Themes and Priorities for the CRC Programme Social Impact Investing for Better Health
March 2017	Senate Inquiry into Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill 2016
April 2017	Senate Inquiry into Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates.
June 2017	2030 Strategic Plan for Science, Research and Innovation

Thank you to our original foundation members and donors and to all our current members for your support; with your contribution and commitment to the strong alliance we can continue to position health and medical research as a significant driver of a healthy population and contributor to a healthy economy.

If your organisation is not a member then now is the time to join the alliance of the health and medical research sector. Request more information from the Research Australia team on 02 9295 8546 or admin@researchaustralia.org.



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[@ResearchAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/ResearchAustralia)



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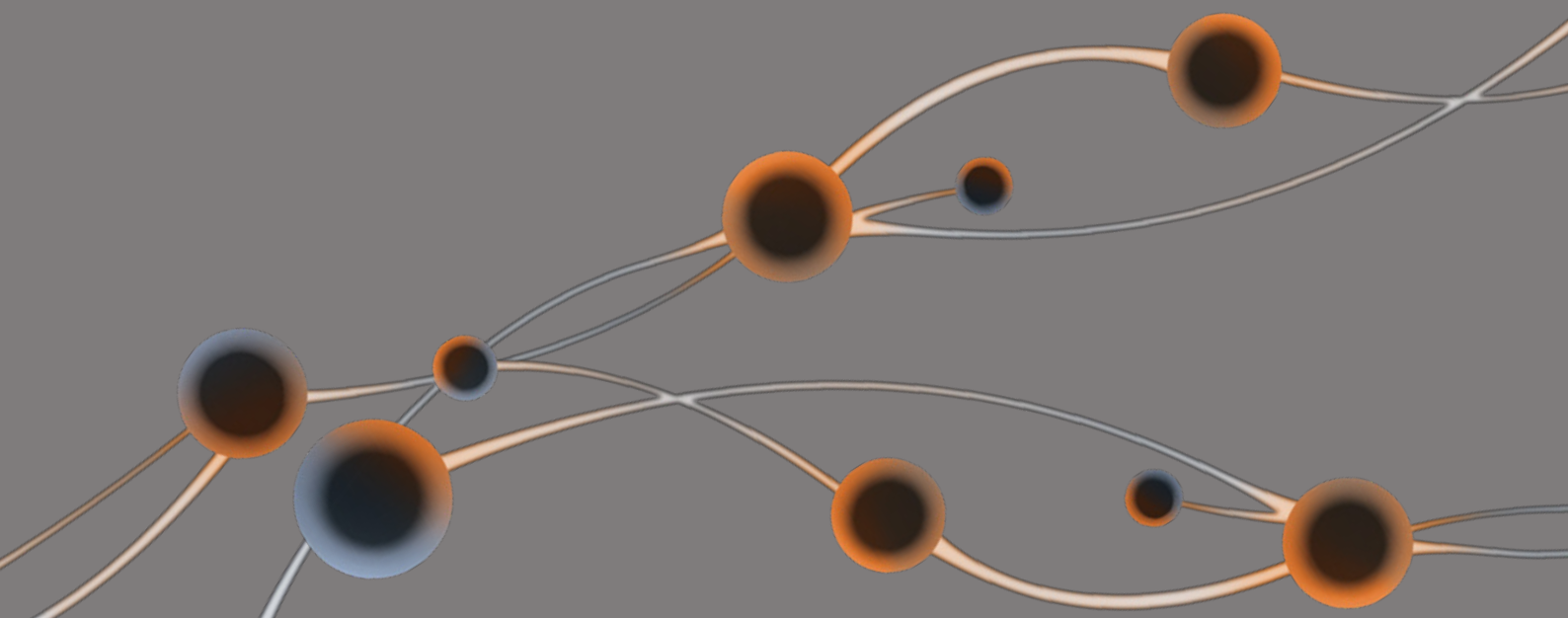
Original foundation members:

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Mrs Margaret Ainsworth

To see the full list of Research Australia members visit researchaustralia.org.



Financial summary

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

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue	4	679,486	798,574
Employee benefits expense	5	(603,348)	(578,189)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	9	(7,497)	(9,068)
Marketing and events expense		(50,919)	(72,206)
Travelling expenses		(32,125)	(52,870)
Consultancy and contractor expense		(44,433)	(132,915)
Administrative expenses		(79,734)	(87,845)
Total Expenses		(818,056)	(933,093)
Finance income		15,938	19,470
Finance expenses		(1,447)	(2,403)
Net finance income		14,491	17,067
Loss for the year		(124,079)	(117,452)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year		(124,079)	(117,452)

The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements. For more information contact the Research Australia office admin@researchaustralia.org

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017

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	Note	2017	2016
ASSETS		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	102,530	335,499
Short term deposits	7	541,508	366,175
Trade and other receivables	8	329,350	436,637
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		973,388	1,138,311
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	13,230	19,063
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		13,230	19,063
TOTAL ASSETS		986,618	1,157,374
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	507,242	554,328
Employee benefits	14	26,635	26,226
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		533,877	580,554
TOTAL LIABILITIES		533,877	580,554
NET ASSETS		452,741	576,820
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	12	452,741	576,820
TOTAL EQUITY		452,741	576,820

The statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

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