



8 July 2024

Dr Sarah Palmer
Principal Research Officer
Education and Health Standing Committee
Parliament of Western Australia

By email: laesch@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Dr Palmer

Submission - Inquiry into Support for Health and Medical Research Funding Priorities

The Institute is pleased to provide a submission to the Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into Support for Health and Medical Research Funding Priorities.

The Institute is a member of the Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI), and I hold the position of Chair of AAMRI's WA Chapter.

I can therefore confirm that the Institute has been closely involved in the preparation of AAMRI's submission to this Inquiry and is a signatory to the submission.

With that in mind, I wish to express the Institute's strong support for the comments and recommendations contained in the AAMRI submission. Please consider this to be a letter of support for that submission.

The Institute echoes the comments in AAMRI's submission regarding the need to focus on addressing WA's critically low share of national competitive funding for health and medical research. A more strategic approach to State funding for health and medical research is needed to facilitate coordinated, sustainable and long-term investment. I would further recommend that the way in which health and medical priorities are determined for the State is best done in genuine partnership between government, community and the research sector.

As WA's leading paediatric research institute, I would also take the opportunity to provide some additional commentary around support for health and medical research funding priorities for children and families as follows:

- There is overwhelming evidence that the years from 0-5 are vital in a child's development. Early years research has provided evidence of the importance of prevention and early intervention as the experiences of early childhood have a direct and lasting impact upon a child's future life trajectory.
- Greater funding needs to be directed to prevention and early intervention.
- Funding for research directed to addressing the disparity in health and wellbeing outcomes experienced by Aboriginal children and families should be a priority.
- Children and families living in WA's rural and remote areas, including Aboriginal families, are some of the most disadvantaged in the State.



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- Greater health and medical research funding is needed to work in partnership with community to understand their needs and ensure support services are provided where they can deliver the best outcomes.
- Funding needs to be directed to better efforts to gather data to track the developmental progress of all children, and for that data to be used to inform the development, implementation and evaluation of services to support children and families.
- More health and medical research funding is needed to develop greater partnerships and collaboration between research organisations and health service providers to facilitate greater translation of research outcomes into clinical practice. This would see significant advancements through, for example:
 - o clinical guidelines informed by evidence on new models of service, assessment, diagnoses and treatment; and
 - o workforce pathways from research to clinical practice through programs such as internships, scholarships and mentoring.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission to the Inquiry.

Should you have any questions or seek further information, please contact Fona Roche, the Head of Government Relations at the Institute on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
Executive Director