



WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA  
[www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

4 February 2008

## Major investment in Australia's health researchers

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has announced the allocation of \$75 million to support the career development of Australian health and medical researchers and the continued growth of Australian research excellence.

The grants are part of \$124 million in funding for projects to support medical and health research in Australia, announced today by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP.

Funding was provided to 379 researchers who applied for a range of grants administered by the NHMRC, including:

- 70 career-development awards;
- 133 training postdoctoral fellowships;
- 171 postgraduate scholarships, and
- five travelling awards.

Career-development awards include:

- Dr Stephen Tong, Monash University, will study early origins of disease;
- Dr Rebecca Ivers, George Institute for International Health, will study preventing road traffic injuries;
- Dr Shyamali Dharmage, University of Melbourne, will study the prevention of chronic diseases.

Postdoctoral fellowships include:

- Dr Anne Abbott, Baker Heart Research Institute, will be supported to study the prevention of stroke;
- Dr Kerry-Ann O'Grady, Charles Darwin University Menzies School of Health Research, will study the prevention of pneumonia in Indigenous children;
- Dr Christina Nagle, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, will study risk and survival in gynaecological cancer; and
- Dr Mark Delft, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, will study the function of cancer stem cells in human leukaemia.

NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson said, “The NHMRC is committed to ensuring Australian researchers remain world leaders in preventative health. These program grants support teams of leading researchers to pursue collaborative research and to contribute new knowledge at a leading international level.”

The NHMRC plays a critical role in identifying priority areas for further research attention and ensuring that the research efforts are focused appropriately on both preventative approaches and treatment.

Further information on specific projects can be found on the NHMRC’s website at [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au).

**Media contact: Phil Mayne, 0423 696 024**