

Welcome to the first edition of the RAP Quarterly Newsletter.

This newsletter aims to help spread the word about Research Australia and our new programs to support philanthropic giving for health and medical research.

In the months ahead we will be making major new announcements and launching new programs and services. We have developed a Research Register of projects, and a network of potential philanthropic supporters, as part of a major national program to make giving easy and rewarding.

Research Australia Philanthropy aims to help donors and grant makers to connect with medical researchers in what we hope will lead to mutual satisfying philanthropic partnerships. Ultimately we hope to achieve our vision where government, industry, philanthropy and the research sector work together to improve quality of life for all Australians.

In Melbourne on the 2nd September, the Honourable Mark Butler MP will launch 'Giving to Health & Medical Research: Research Australia Philanthropy Toolkit'. If you wish to attend this event please contact our Melbourne office.

In this edition we introduce you to;

- our 'Linkage Program' and explain the process connecting supporters with researchers,
- the difference that can be made by supporting early research programs, and
- considerations in making bequests to health & medical research.

We look forward to hearing from you and I urge you to contact either myself, Noel or Jessica to explore how we might help you achieve your goals.

Rebecca James
CEO
Research Australia

THE DIRECTORS CUT



Dr. Noel Chambers

In late 2007 Research Australia embarked on a new initiative connecting health & medical research with philanthropy. This initiative was supported by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Initially focussed on building knowledge, relationships, systems and infrastructure to support future programs we have commenced a new phase proactively assisting grant makers and grant seekers.

In the coming months the 'Research Australia Philanthropy Toolkit; Giving to health and medical research' will be launched and made available to our members.

Our 'Research Register' will provide new benefits for our members reaching through to researchers offering new avenues to seek support.

Supporters of health and medical research will benefit through our services; making giving easier, cost effective and independently reviewed. Making a difference to supporters, researchers and the community.

We would like to thank all those whom have supported this initiative, providing their time, wisdom and experience over the past 18 months.

Dealing with Charitable Trusts



Health and medical research institutes are often the recipients of funds which are the subject of a charitable trust, which is a trust for a charitable purpose. The trust can be created pursuant to a trust deed or by will.

The charitable trustee has a positive duty to act in good faith and to execute the trust strictly according to its terms and in the interest of the charitable beneficiary. A trustee may be liable for losses if they misapply trust property and a breach of trust can result in adverse publicity for the institution, which can affect future funding.

Problems arise if the terms of the trust are uncertain or if a donation is made to a charity which does not exist or has ceased to exist. Pursuant to relevant State legislation, for example the Charitable Trusts Act 1993 (NSW), an application to the Court (or in some States the Attorney-General) can be made to apply the trust "cy pres" (that is, to apply the trust monies to a purpose or object as near as possible to the donor's expressed charitable purpose), however, these proceedings can be time and cost intensive and can involve notification of the application which may invite competing interest for the trust monies.

Therefore, it is best for all parties concerned to ensure that the correct institute is identified and the gift can be used both for the purpose intended by the donor and for a purpose useful to and in accordance with the objectives of the institute. For example, it is difficult for an institute to use monies gifted to it to build a facility for HIV research, if there is no room to build such a facility and no funds to equip and staff same. In many cases, it is preferable to make the gift to a particular charity for use in accordance with its stated objectives and not make the gift too narrow.

For more information, please contact:

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Return on Investment from Philanthropy



The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) receives charitable donations from the corporate and individual donors. Between 1998 and 2008 the HMRI Foundation has distributed \$9.1M in research funding, with 50% (\$4.5M) raised in the past three years. The funding has been awarded to researchers predominantly as pilot grants through a peer-review process.

A recent audit of the HMRI pilot grants revealed a significant (21:1) return on the investment for attracting further competitive grant funding. To date \$2.3M of pilot grant funding has been linked to attracting \$48.2M in external funding (\$35.7M in NHMRC funding). The average time to link a pilot grant to leveraging further competitive grant funding was 3.1 years, suggesting that even more funding is likely to eventuate as the recent pilot grants come to maturity.

The increase in funding support from HMRI has been mirrored by an increase in total Australian competitive grant funding for health and medical research. The annual grant income has increased from approximately \$6.7M in 1998 to over \$35M in 2008.

Through establishment of corporate partnerships, HMRI has also been able to contribute to successful research collaborations.

For more information, please contact:

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Feature

RAP Linkage Program

Research Australia is building linkages between philanthropic organisations, individuals and researchers.

The Research Australia Philanthropy (RAP) Linkage Program provides strategic guidance, tools and resources to support effective partnerships between health and medical researchers and philanthropists.

Our Linkage Program is operated through a centrally coordinated unit within Research Australia, preserving anonymity for grant seekers and grant makers.

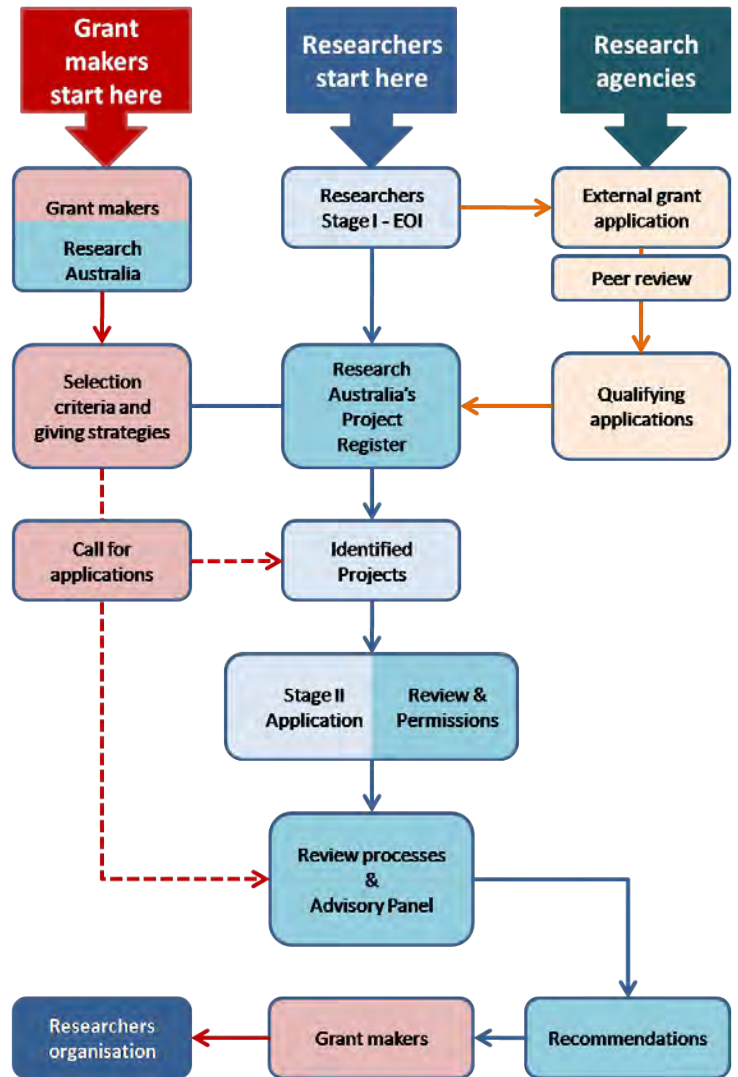
We assist researchers applying for philanthropic support via a multistage grant application process. Registration is a simple and easy process whereby researchers do not need to make direct approaches to philanthropists. We invite researchers to enter their research projects, fields of research and support needs on our recently launched online register of fundable projects.

The Research Register will assist in identifying research opportunities that match the selection criteria provided by philanthropists. It may also assist researchers identify philanthropic service providers. To minimize administrative process the initial forms have been kept to a minimum and only take 20 minutes to complete. When potential matches have been identified further project specific information will be sought from the researchers and a review process commenced.

Researchers are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible when completing the forms. This will aid in the identification of potential opportunities. You may register more than once.

Example questions for grant seekers include;

- What do you want to receive support for (e.g. equipment), how much and how would it be used?
- What is the duration of the funding and where would the research be conducted?
- Briefly outline your grant support.
- What key issue or need does this activity address and who will benefit?
- Is this a partnership initiative? Please provide brief detail.



Please note that the answers should be brief (100-150 words) and non technical.

Research Australia Philanthropy provides assistance to grant makers to implement best practice in their giving process using our RAP Linkage Program. By using this independent and transparent service, and the governance and quality systems the Linkage Program brings to giving practices, grant makers can gain significant advantage.

Services include an Advisory Panel to provide expert review of research projects including scientific merit and community benefit, identification of fundable research programs that match grant makers giving criteria, via the Research Register and administration support.

We request that members forward this newsletter to their relevant Heads of Department and Deans.

Philanthropy Profile

Dr. Fiona Wood

Healing wounds – with support from the Raine Foundation

Fiona Wood's work sprang into sharp focus in 2002, when her research into spray on skin was put into practice on victims of the Bali bombings some of whom had burns to 92% of their bodies.

But this research might never have come to fruition without one key grant six years earlier, from a West Australian philanthropic foundation – the Raine Medical Research Foundation.

In 1996 Fiona believed she could grow new skin cells from a patient's own skin to replace damaged tissue from wounds and burns. But it was hard getting started.

"As clinical researchers, we didn't have a long career in research," says Fiona. "We didn't have the track record required to access competitive grants from the NHMRC. But our ideas were sound and we were very passionate about what we were trying to do."

We already had a grant from the Telethon for a skin culture facility, but we needed help to kick start our research into how skin cells adhere to wound surfaces and to help us create computer tools to assist with injury and scar assessments."

Raine Foundation funding comes from a bequest made in 1957 to The University of Western Australia for the purpose of funding medical research in the State. Most of its grants go to younger and early career researchers, according to its director Lyn Ellis. Approximately 10 grants of between \$150-250,000 are made annually, enabling these researchers to kick start their work and build the research base needed to secure government and other grants.

"There are very few established medical researchers in WA who have not been funded by a Raine grant," Ellis says.

Applications are peer-reviewed and then ranked before decisions are made by the Foundation's Research Committee.

"Fiona's case was interesting and I remember it very well," Ellis says. "She came in and gave a presentation to the Committee, one of the few times that has happened."

Fiona says it made it much more of a personal process. "Clearly the Committee was looking beyond the paper application," she says.

She believes that philanthropic support is crucial for projects that are not on the mainstream track.

"If your idea is radical, grants can be harder to get," Wood explains.

Wood says that clinical researchers are often at a disadvantage when they start out in research. "We often don't have the track record that comes from an academic research career path."

Wood certainly did not follow a traditional model to fund her research. In the late 1990's she and her research partner Marie Stoner established their own research foundation, the McComb Foundation, to advance research and development of tissue engineering technologies. A company, Clinical Cell Culture (which merged earlier this year with Visiomed to become Avita), was created to commercialise intellectual property developed by the foundation, with royalties flowing back into the foundation to support the research programs.

"Commercialisation has been a hard road, and perhaps a little bit naive. We have stepped back toward the traditional routes now, in fact I think we've almost come full circle," Wood says. "We are starting to think about the interactions between the nervous system and the skin, which is a new direction for us. So maybe we'll be looking for a philanthropist who shares our passion to start us in a new direction."

News in Brief

Change to PPFs

The Assistant Treasurer introduced legislation into Parliament in Tax Laws Amendment (2009 Measures No. 4) Bill 2009, giving the Treasurer the ability to make binding guidelines for Private Ancillary Funds (formerly named Prescribed Private Funds).

The Bill and explanatory material can be found by following the 'Bills' link on www.aph.gov.au (the relevant parts are in Schedule 2). The deadline for submissions responding to Treasury is Thursday 23 July.

Research Australia is pleased to announce that Hon Mark Butler MP, the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary for Health will launch the 'Giving to Health & Medical Research: Research Australia Philanthropy Toolkit' in September.

This toolkit will be available free for members of Research Australia and for \$135.00 ex GST (plus postage and handling) for non members.

Research Australia invites members to submit news articles for future editions of our newsletter.

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Events

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Detail

Research Australia members and supporters briefing - Adelaide	Mon, 27 Jul 2009
Launch Research Australia Philanthropy Toolkit - Melbourne	Wed, 2 Sep 2009
Research Australia Philanthropy RAPup - Melbourne	Thu, 15 Oct 2009

Funding Opportunities

Summary

Closing Date

Rotary Health - one year pilot project investigating mental health of young Australians	Fri, 7 Aug 2009
State Trustees - Breast Cancer Scholarship	Wed, 30 Sep 2009

Want to make a difference to health and medical research?

Research Australia provides strategic guidance, tools and resources to support effective partnerships between health & medical research and philanthropy.

We can help you:

- Develop effective giving strategies that make a difference.
- Find quality research projects that meet your giving needs.
- Review research projects using our expert advisory panel services including scientific review.

For further information please contact Dr. Noel Chambers (03) 9662 9366

www.researchaustralia.org



Research Australia's proprietary tools, experience and expertise can help you identify, review and maintain research projects that meet your giving needs. Our personal advisory service, offers confidential, independent and transparent governance procedures linking you with Australia's leading scientists.

Our suite of linkage services can help you by:

- Developing effective giving strategies that make a difference.
- Identifying quality research projects that meet your giving needs.
- Reviewing research projects using our advisory panel whose considerations include scientific merit and community benefit.
- Providing recommendations against alternative research options to assist decision making.
- Assisting with your acquittal processes.
- Delivering administrative efficiencies to grant making programs conducted by established Trusts and Foundations.
- Providing independent and transparent processes to assist in delivering best practice solutions.
- Expanding your networks.

Our services

RAP Linkage Program

Our RAP linkage program is operated through a centrally coordinated unit within Research Australia preserving anonymity for philanthropists and researchers.

Advisory Panel

Research Australia has established an advisory panel to provide expert review of research projects including scientific merit and community benefit. This service is part of the linkage program but may be accessed separately where a grant maker has independently identified a short list of projects for potential funding.

Research Register

The Research Register is managed by Research Australia to facilitate linkages between grant seekers, grant makers and philanthropic service providers. The register is not publically available and assists Research Australia to identify potential research programs that match the criteria provided by grant makers.

Administration

Research Australia can assist organisations with the management of their grant making administration by undertaking this role in a contractual capacity. In particular, this service provides cost savings to smaller organisations where the size of gifts may not justify the resources to manage them in-house.

Toolkit

The Research Australia Philanthropy Toolkit: Giving to Health & Medical Research is an educational resource for grant makers, grant seekers, service providers, corporate entities and the community. Copies will be available for purchase by non members. A free copy of this toolkit is available to our members upon request.

Membership

Research Australia's Medallion members and above are entitled to a discount on our linkage program services. They have access to a member's only area on the Research Australia website and receive invitations to participate in Health & Medical Research Philanthropic roundtables.

For further information please visit our website www.researchaustralia.org or call 03 9662 9366.

Dr. Noel Chambers: Director Philanthropy
Ms. Jessica Gilbert: Project Manager

Research Australia is currently seeking a major supporter for the philanthropy initiative.

Please contact Dr. Noel Chambers for further information.

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