

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

These are some of our recent achievements that benefit Members of Research Australia.

## ADVOCACY

Research Australia commands respect across government, industry and the community, and membership allows for increasingly significant opportunities to monitor and influence the key decision makers to make health and medical research a higher national priority. For example:

- Our input to the Federal Budget in 2006 helped secure \$900m for health and medical research which has a flow on benefits to the industry. Research proposals submitted in the context of the 2007 Federal Budget, and the 2007 Federal election campaign are still under consideration by the incoming government.
- Research Australia promoted private research and development as a focus to the Grant Review, Productivity Commission and other reviews.
- Provided support for PBS Pricing Review in association with Medicines Australia.

## Community Awareness

- Research Australia's "Thank You" Day is a national celebration of research achievement and grows community awareness and support for the benefits of health and medical research. In 2006, the "Thank You" day campaign won the Asia-Pacific PR Award in the Non-Profit category for its 2005 campaign.
- Youth Ambassador Schools program was piloted in Victoria in 2007 as an outreach program to find students in Year 9 or 10 that were passionate about science, wanted to learn more about research and were willing to help spread awareness of its importance to other young people. The program is expected to expand nationally.

## CONNECTING

Research Australia builds productive relationships between research, industry, philanthropy and government: For example:

- In late 2007 Research Australia Philanthropy was established to promote corporate philanthropy and personal giving to research. We are actively seeking corporate partnerships to boost the level of community and corporate giving to health and medical research and we will be developing resources to generate these opportunities. The initiative has been funded by a grant from the Department of Health and Ageing and the Myer Foundation.

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### Melbourne

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## PARTNERING

Our aim is to extend our membership alliances and leverage these relationships through effective partnerships. For example:

- Research Australia has a strong role in government liaison often in collaboration and complementing other groups such as AusBiotech, AAMRI, ASMR and Medicines Australia. Collaborative programs in 2007 included a survey of 68 biotechnology companies and the publication of a report entitled "Beyond Discovery 2007" which highlighted opportunities and barriers to Australian biotechnology.

## UNDERSTANDING

Research Australia's commissioned reports and detailed submissions to government reviews help shape policy on a wide range of health and medical research issues.

- Public Opinion Polls - since 2002, Research Australia has carried out annual public opinion polling to gauge the strength of community support for health and medical research, and community opinion on general health issues. The polls support Research Australia's advocacy initiatives, including topical issues such as stem cell research, lifestyle related conditions, complementary medicines and climate change. This provides valuable feedback on community opinion to inform member policy development and marketing.
- Special Reports – Research Australia's Special Reports have focussed on a range of topics from the impact on climate change on health (Healthy, Planet Places and People) to the commercial experiences of health and biotech companies in Australia (Beyond Discovery 2007).

## REPRESENTING

Research Australia supports its members through a range of benefits, services and activities. For example:

- Research Australia holds a range of member and community events that provide networking opportunities across all sectors and connects leaders in research, government, philanthropists and captains of industry. A highlight of the Health and Medical Research community calendar is the "Thank You" Day Awards which celebrates the achievements of individuals and organisations that have helped further research in Australia through corporate giving, philanthropy or advocacy. The 2008 Awards will be held in Sydney in November 2008.

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- The new Research Australia website [www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org) – is a gateway of information on health and medical research and includes member benefits such as a member recruitment program, news and events, positions vacant in the sector, a new portal on philanthropy and better profiling of Research Australia members. The website currently receives several thousands of visitors each week and we anticipate a significant increase as we enhance our member interface.
- The Media Centre offers a range of free and discount services including free posting on EurekaAlert!, discount media monitoring services, member and government media releases and news.
- Information source for media - Research Australia released 13 statements to the media commenting on policy changes and issues affecting Australian research, in addition to a comprehensive media campaign associated with the “Healthy Planet, Healthy People” community education campaign and the “Thank You” Day program. We are frequently approached by media seeking referrals for expert commentary or for backgrounding on topical issues.

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