

NHMRC - Funding Australia's Top Female Health and Medical Researchers

The Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) applauds the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Minister for Health the Hon Greg Hunt for the decision this morning to fund an additional 34 research projects to be led by women. This announcement illustrates the clear commitment of government to redress the historical and structural imbalances in research opportunity and career development that have created barriers for female researchers.

The announcement builds on the NHMRC's gender equity policy, by sending a clear message that women's contributions to building a healthier Australia are valued and will be supported.

"For too long, the sector has seen higher attrition rates of top female investigators when compared to their male counterparts," said Dr Campbell Thomson, ARMS President. "Today's announcement represents a significant step in the right direction to retaining talented female researchers who are experts in their fields."

Professor Lee Astheimer, Chair of the ARMS Accreditation Council noted that the historical imbalance is stark when one looks at the figures. "Women feature prominently in applications for NHMRC early career fellowships, but are sorely underrepresented in applications for more senior fellowships." Furthermore, success rates for female applicants have fallen short of those for male applicants.

"We cannot claim to be an innovative society if we are not tapping into the talent and expertise of half of our population," said Professor Astheimer.

Dr Campbell Thomson says he is looking forward to working with the membership of ARMS to provide the research management and support to ensure the positive outcomes and impacts of these projects can be realised for the benefit of the Australian community.

The Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) is the professional society for research managers and administrators working throughout Australasia and Singapore.

Since its founding in 1999, the ARMS network has grown to involve more than 2800 members from universities, research agencies and institutes, medical research institutes, R&D corporations, research centres, government departments, funding bodies, industrial R&D teams, service providers, commercialisation bodies and consultancies.

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Refer to NHMRC [Media Release](#)