



## Media Release

### Complementary Medicines Industry Welcome NHMRC Grants

With the announcement made this morning by Health Minister Tanya Plibersek of \$652 million to go towards 1,141 National Health and Medical Research Council grants, the Complementary Healthcare of Australia (CHC) emphasises its strong support of the continuation of health related research supported by the Government. Executive Director of the CHC, Dr Wendy Morrow, highlighted the significance of research and clinical trials on the potential benefits of Complementary Medicines (CMs).

'Research is at the cornerstone of fostering good health and preventing disease. It is an essential component of the CM industry and as such the industry welcomes the Health Minister's announcement of continued Government investment, administered through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The continuation of this funding allocation is essential for Australia to establish and maintain a healthy population,' Dr Morrow noted.

Victoria topped the list for receiving the most funding, receiving 498 grants, and a total of \$290 million. Out of the research institutions, The University of Melbourne came out on top, receiving 162 grants totalling \$89.6 million, and The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute received the greatest amount of funding out of the independent medical research institutions, with \$30.7 millions for 162 grants.

The funding will also support international collaboration with a \$3.6 million allocation towards five Australian-European Collaborative Research Grants, and mental health in children and young people was a focus with \$13.7 million going towards 13 grants.

The CM Industry is strongly founded in science, with an increasing evidence base, and welcomes further opportunities for support in conducting research and clinical trials with the aim of improving population health outcomes and meeting consumer needs in terms of products available on the Australian market. The CHC endeavours to foster improved knowledge and understanding around CMs, both within the healthcare and medicines industries as well as amongst consumers.

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#### CHC Contacts

Executive Director  
Head of Government Relations and Communications

Dr Wendy Morrow	0407 072 151
Sophie Newsome	0408 388 015