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MEDIA RELEASE

**\$8.65 MILLION HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING
FOR UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE**

The Rudd Government is providing \$8.65 million in new health and medical research funding to the University of Newcastle.

The funding, part of a \$500 million government investment into the future health and wellbeing of all Australians, will be provided through the National Health and Medical Research Council.

NHMRC is the Commonwealth Government's peak funding body for health and medical research. It selects projects for funding from among a large number of applications.

This funding will enable researchers at the university to contribute to the Government's health reform agenda to improve the health of all Australians.

The research produced will enable us to better understand, tackle and even prevent chronic disease and other health problems in the future.

The largest slice of the overall funding has gone to Project Grants, which support individuals and teams conducting research into all areas of health. Project Grants received by the University of Newcastle include:

Living in a rural community: mental health and wellbeing in rural and remote NSW – this unique rural Australian study will investigate individual, family and community factors associated with the mental health and wellbeing of residents in NSW rural communities. The work will be lead by Professor Brian Kelly with funding of \$805,650.

Estrogen and the onset of labour – this research aims to prevent premature birth by investigating the role of two different estrogens (hormones) and a hormone receptor in the onset of contractions during labour. The research team headed by Professor Roger Smith will receive \$324,900.

Spinal mechanism underlying arthritic joint pain – arthritis is a common source of chronic pain where previous treatments have largely failed. This study will investigate how changes

in spinal cord nerve cells contribute to pain, and new ways to treat this pain. Dr Brett Graham and his team will use funding of \$416,500 to carry out this work.

This round of funding also includes NHMRC's Project Grant, Enabling Grant, Partnership for Better Health Grant, Standard Equipment Grant, Fellowship and Career Development Award schemes.

For more information on the funding schemes, and a full list of successful projects, visit www.nhmrc.gov.au

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