



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$11 MILLION INJECTION INTO CANCER RESEARCH

Almost \$7 million has been granted to two eminent research groups, in the latest injection from the NSW Government's translational cancer research program, the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, said today.

The funding is in addition to the \$30 million over 5 years already provided by the NSW Government for this hugely beneficial program.

This is part of the NSW Government's record investment to medical research – a massive \$105.6 million in 2011-12.

The grants, administered by the Cancer Institute of NSW, have been awarded to the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) and the ANZAC Research Institute, based at the Concord Repatriation General Hospital in Sydney.

The group led by Professor Nico van Zandwijk, director of the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, has been awarded \$3.5 million to improve outcomes for people with asbestos-related cancer and their families.

A team working at the Anzac Research Institute and the University of Sydney, led by Professor Derek Hart, has been awarded \$3.47 million for the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers.

Minister Skinner announced the grants at Concord hospital today.

"The translational cancer research program is a key part of the NSW Government's commitment to boosting medical research – bringing staff from seven new research hubs together to share knowledge, resources and technology," Minister Skinner said.

"These grants will allow researchers to work closely with doctors and nurses on the front line of cancer care to get new treatments into practice sooner," she said.

"The cutting-edge research will have a direct impact on cancer outcomes across the state – providing our doctors and nurses with the latest information and expertise to provide world-class care."

The wider research grants program awarded by the Cancer Institute of NSW also includes \$4.3 million in fellowships, attracting new cancer researchers to NSW and supporting current researchers to develop and present their work on the international stage.

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW Professor David Currow says the translational cancer grants will benefit cancer patients across the state.

“Australia has the world’s highest incidence of malignant mesothelioma, a fatal cancer caused by asbestos. The translational research undertaken by Professor van Zandwijk will see NSW as a world leader in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mesothelioma.

“Combining this with the work of Professor Hart, these grants are also good news for people across NSW affected by acute myeloid leukaemia, recipients of bone marrow transplants and people diagnosed with Hodgkins and non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

“Professor van Zandwijk, Professor Hart and their teams will take their work from research hub through to the treatment room and make a big difference in the lives of people with cancer and their families,” said Professor Currow.