

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000740

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

**Topic:** Medical Research Future Fund

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Will the government take steps to ensure MRFF funding will be directed to preventive and public health research aimed at tackling the burden of chronic disease and preventing disease and disability?

**Answer:**

As per the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*, the Australian Government must consider the *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016-21* and the *Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2016-18* developed by the independent Australian Medical Research Advisory Board in making decisions on disbursements from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF).

The MRFF Strategy is structured around six strategic platforms, one of which is health services and systems research. It is in this context that the importance of innovative evidence-based approaches to treatment, prevention, diagnosis and the management of disease.

The current MRFF Priorities highlight preventive health research as a priority. Accordingly, the first MRFF disbursements package (announced on 9 May 2017) included an investment of \$10 million to support The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre to generate low-cost, translatable and scalable solutions that promote the adoption of good health practices, prevent disease and keep people out of hospital.