

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-115

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: THE NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE HEALTH TASKFORCE REPORT,
AUSTRALIA: THE HEALTHIEST COUNTRY BY 2020.

Senator Barnett asked:

Can NHMRC provide further and better particulars on research grants that go through the Council regarding health prevention? Include a list of the grants. What proportion of total funds goes to health prevention research?

Answer:

In 2010, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) provided \$143,228,772 for research into prevention. This includes \$40,957,860 for immunisation and vaccination research, and \$11,944,015 for health promotion research. The \$143,228,772 for research into prevention in 2010 represents 20% of NHMRC expenditure for that year.

Attachment A provides some summary detail of all NHMRC funded prevention research for the period 2000 to 2010, as well as providing details of the 1,685 grants funded during this period. In addition, a sample of research that NHMRC has supported in this area is provided.

Grant ID: 566529

Grant type: New Program Grant

Chief Investigator: Prof Patrick D McGorry

Administering institution: University of Melbourne

Total budget: \$10,228,050

Application Year: 2008

Broad Research Area: Clinical Medicine and Science

Lay title:

Emerging Mental Disorders in Young People: Using Clinical Staging for Prediction, Prevention and Early Intervention.

Lay description:

Mental disorders are a major cause of disability in Australia, especially for young people. We have developed a clinical staging model covering the earliest symptoms through persistent disorder to chronic disability. We are investigating neurobiological, personal and social factors which increase the risk of progression through these stages, and novel treatment strategies which may prevent or delay onset and relapse, reduce the impact of illness, and promote recovery. Major public health benefits and better understanding of the onset and progression of illness will result.

Grant ID: 585402

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: A/Pr Emily Banks

Administering institution: Australian National University

Total budget: \$592,798

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Public Health

Lay title:

How can we prevent hospitalisation related to overweight and obesity?

Lay description:

Obesity is an important and rapidly increasing health problem, especially in indigenous communities. The proposed project investigates how obesity affects the risk of hospital admission in Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, including providing evidence regarding the nature of the hospitalisation, the cost and whether specific groups are at a higher risk of obesity-related hospitalisation. In doing so it aims to identify targets for intervention to reduce obesity-related hospitalisation.

Grant ID: 589903

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Prof William Kerry Mummery

Administering institution: Central Queensland University (CQU)

Total budget: \$913,371

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Public Health

Lay title:

WALK 2.0: Using Web 2.0 applications to promote health-related physical activity.

Lay description:

More than half of the Australian population do not meet the recommended levels of physical activity to achieve health benefits. Internet based physical activity interventions which include innovative technology have the potential to reach large groups of individuals and contribute to physical activity promotion. This study evaluates the efficacy and utility of Web 2.0 applications to promote physical activity.

Grant ID: 594793

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Prof John W Toumbourou

Administering institution: Deakin University

Total budget: \$1,437,873

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Preventative Medicine

Lay title:

Modifiable influences in the development of harmful young adult alcohol use.

Lay description:

Young adulthood is a time of high vulnerability for alcohol use problems that are the major preventable contributor to death and injury in this age period. This 5-year project will identify modifiable influences in adolescence and young adulthood that contribute to harmful alcohol use. A cohort of almost 3,000 young people initially recruited in Victoria in 2002 (aged 11 to 15) will be followed for two further waves of data collection in 2010-11 (age 19 to 23) and 2012-13 (age 21 to 25).

Grant ID: 601002

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: A/Pr Alan R Clough

Administering institution: James Cook University

Total budget: \$799,782

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Public Health

Lay title:

Indigenous community action to reduce harms associated with heavy cannabis use in Cape York.

Lay description:

Cape York Indigenous communities together with Queensland Police, are working to reduce cannabis availability. Community leaders report that cannabis use is widespread in their communities with associated problems such as violence, mental illness and economic hardship. This project will deliver tailored strategies to reduce the demand for cannabis whilst providing support and education about the effects of cannabis and reasons to avoid using it over a three year period.

Grant ID: 607302

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Dr Jordana K Bayer

Administering institution: Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Total budget: \$762,281

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Public Health

Lay title:

Preventing early anxiety disorders.

Lay description:

Internalising mental health problems reflect inner emotional distress and encompass all symptoms of anxiety and depression. Affecting 1 in 7 Australian school-age children, many internalising problems persist into adulthood, impacting on personal wellbeing, family relations and workforce capabilities. This randomised prevention trial in the preschool-setting, screens for children at-risk and tests if a parenting program can reduce internalising problems across the population by school-entry.

Grant ID: 623203

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Prof Melanie A Wakefield

Administering institution: The Cancer Council Victoria

Total budget: \$648,897

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Public Health

Lay title:

Effects of current and plain cigarette package design on smokers' cigarette evaluation.

Lay description:

This project proposes to better understand the role of cigarette pack design on consumers' judgements that some cigarettes are safer than others. Three experimental studies are proposed, which will evaluate the influence of pack branding and colours, the potential impact of plain packaging, and the effect of larger size health warnings on consumer perceptions of cigarette health risks.

Grant ID: 628739

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Dr Andrew M Chanen

Administering institution: University of Melbourne

Total budget: \$694,571

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Clinical Medicine and Science

Lay title:

Early intervention for borderline personality disorder in youth.

Lay description:

Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a severe mental disorder involving instability of emotions, impulse control, self-concept and interpersonal relationships. BPD arises during adolescence and has a suicide rate of 10%. This study investigates the most effective form of early intervention for BPD that improves the daily lives of individuals and reduces poor outcomes, such as deliberate self-harm. The findings will inform the dissemination of early intervention for BPD in the health system.

Grant ID: 630551

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Dr Michael J Valenzuela

Administering institution: University of New South Wales

Total budget: \$172,693

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Preventative Medicine

Lay title:

Four Nations Dementia Prevention Collaboration.

Lay description:

We will examine the link between lifetime participation in complex mental activities and long term dementia risk in a level of detail not previously possible. Four major studies of brain health from around the world will join forces for the first time to determine which mental activities are most closely linked to protection from dementia, and when during the lifespan these are most important. Mental activity will be assessed using our recently published Lifetime of Experiences Questionnaire.

Grant ID: 631055

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Dr Billie Bonevski

Administering institution: University of Newcastle

Total budget: \$133,030

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Public Health

Lay title:

RCT of a client-centred, caseworker-delivered smoking cessation intervention for a socially disadvantaged population.

Lay description:

Smoking among the socially disadvantaged is unacceptably high. Little is known about the best way to reduce smoking among the disadvantaged. This study aims to lower smoking rates among clients attending community social services. Given smoking is the leading preventable cause of death and illness, the study has the potential to impact on the health and well-being of a particularly vulnerable sector of the community.

Grant ID: 632715

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: A/Pr Wendell W Evans

Administering institution: University of Sydney

Total budget: \$383,268

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Health Services Research

Lay title:

Implementation and sustainability of non-surgical intervention for dental caries in general dental practice.

Lay description:

Dentists in NSW and the ACT used new protocols to stop the spread of tooth decay. Many decayed teeth were then remineralised without the use of injections or drilling and filling. The process by which the dentists reorganised their practices to implement the protocols and how they explained them to their patients and practice staff will now be investigated to discover how best to promote their use Australia-wide. The sustainability and cost-effectiveness of this type of care will be measured.

Grant ID: 632889

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Prof Jennie C Brand-Miller

Administering institution: University of Sydney

Total budget: \$348,622

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Clinical Medicine and Science

Lay title:

A dietary intervention in gestational diabetes to reduce child obesity.

Lay description:

Women with gestational diabetes (GDM) whose blood glucose levels (BGL) are not well controlled have a higher chance of giving birth to large babies. These babies are at high risk of becoming overweight children and adults. Preventing child obesity therefore requires appropriate intervention during pregnancy complicated with GDM. This study will determine the ability of specific dietary advice (aimed at reducing maternal BGL) to reduce the risk of large babies in a typical ante-natal setting.

Grant ID: 634422

Grant type: Standard Project Grant

Chief Investigator: Prof Jon D Emery

Administering institution: University of Western Australia

Total budget: \$339,451

Application Year: 2009

Broad Research Area: Preventative Medicine

Lay title:

FAST-Australia: family history screening for chronic disease prevention in primary care.

Lay description:

Risk of developing certain cancers, heart disease and diabetes is increased by having an affected family member. People found to be at risk can be offered ways to prevent or detect these diseases early through lifestyle advice or disease screening. This project will develop and evaluate a family history questionnaire in preparation for a trial of family history screening and its impact on disease prevention.
