

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 20 October 2011

Question: E11-118

OUTCOME: 1. Population Health

Topic: EQUIPMENT GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Hansard Page: CA 16

Senator Furner asked:

Could you provide some feedback on the equipment grants and also the development grants?

Answer:

Equipment Grants

An equipment grant is a grant to an eligible Australian institution to facilitate the purchase or procurement of large items of equipment required for the conduct of health and medical research.

The grants, which range from \$5,000 to more than \$1 million, are allocated on a pro-rata basis to institutions according to their share of the total funding awarded by the NHMRC for research in that year. Without this funding, research may be stifled by a lack of necessary equipment which might reduce the ability to use innovative or unique technical approaches.

Institutions are encouraged to buy equipment that will be used collaboratively and, where possible, is Australian made. In deciding what to purchase, institutions are also encouraged to select equipment that is not already available in their institution or area.

In 2011, more than \$12 million has been allocated to NHMRC Administering institutions in equipment Grants.

Items of equipment that have been purchased using equipment Grant funding include:

- High Speed Flow Cytometric Cell Sorters
- Delta Vision Live Cells Imaging Microscope
- Confocal microscopes
- Liquid chromatography systems

Development Grants

A development grant provides funding support to individual researchers, research teams, or a health and medical research company in partnership with a researcher/s to undertake research at the early proof-of-principle or pre-seed stage. The research will usually be undertaken in Australia.

The objectives of development Grants are to:

- increase, facilitate and expedite the translation of health and medical research outcomes through to commercialisation;
- stimulate technological innovation in the university, hospital and research institute sectors; and
- provide a potential mechanism through which projects may progress to a stage that makes them competitive to receive funding through business development programs within the Department of innovation, Science and Research or through private sector investment.

In 2011, \$6 million has been paid for development grants.