

## Australian Association for Academic Primary Care Summary of submission to McKeon Review

1. Strong primary care, and primary care research, is a vital element in an effective and efficient health care system. Because the bulk of care occurs in the community, particularly general practice, research here can have high leverage.
2. International experience proves that government policy can strategically foster clinical primary care research and researchers, leading to improved health care across the broadest health sector with economic savings.
3. Focus efforts to build a strong primary care research sector through targeted funding to support:
  - a. primary health care researcher career development
  - b. phase I/II studies to develop and test complex health care interventions, and
  - c. continue to support investigator-driven research, in particular primary care clinical research.
4. Ensure there is a balanced mix of basic, applied and translational research for maximum gain from the research effort. Particularly important, but often neglected, is applied research and translation<sup>2</sup> within work in primary care.
5. Infrastructure funding for primary care research is needed, crucially practice-based research networks, as these are the laboratories for primary care research.
6. Explore how Australian research funding can be better co-ordinated and funding targeted at different stages of the research process. This model of co-ordinated funding may benefit researchers from PHC and ensure a balanced mix of funded research.
7. Establish a national body to review literature and consult with stakeholders to develop priorities for research funding in order to improve health outcomes.
8. Facilitate relationships with vulnerable communities to promote their input into research priority setting and their involvement in research.
9. Ensure that if research is to inform the development and revision of guidelines that will be used in primary care, the underpinning research is conducted in primary care.
10. Facilitate linkage of nationally collected health data to improve knowledge and facilitate primary care research.