

## NHMRC Tracker

NHMRC has released the latest issue of Tracker

22 February 08:

### NHMRC Researcher Forum

- NHMRC's CEO Professor Warwick Anderson will be holding an open discussion session in Perth on Wednesday 5 March 2008, from 3pm to 5pm at the QE11 Medical Centre
- Information about other sessions around Australia will be provided in future editions of *Tracker*.

### Advice to RAOs on surrender of Project Grants in Program Grant applications

- The NHMRC is aware of some confusion on the policy relating to the surrender of Project Grants for applicants for Program Grants.
- The NHMRC does not normally allow withdrawal of Chief Investigators from Project Grants after funding is approved by the Minister. Such requests are only considered in exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the formal Project Grants variation process outlined on the NHMRC website at <http://nhmrc.gov.au/funding/funded/manage/projects/variatiions.htm>
- All members of the teams applying for Program Funding must nominate the Project each would retain if the program is successful. All other Projects will cease from 31 December 2008.

### Cancer Australia announces new research priority

- Cancer Australia has announced that cancer prevention is a new research priority for the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme. Researchers who have been preparing research applications on cancer prevention are encouraged to tick the Cancer Australia box on their NHMRC application and to complete the Additional Questions Form required for the scheme.
- Please note the closing date for applications is 14 March 2008. For further information, an application form or a guide for applicants:
  - visit [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/granttype/projects/cc\\_funding.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/types/granttype/projects/cc_funding.htm)
  - visit [www.canceraustralia.gov.au](http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au)
  - Contact Dr Paul Jackson, Cancer Australia, on 02 6200 1721 or at [paul.jackson@canceraustralia.gov.au](mailto:paul.jackson@canceraustralia.gov.au).

### Public consultation: *Guidelines on Monoclonal Antibody Production*

- The *Guidelines on Monoclonal Antibody Production* (2001) have been revised, and the draft will be available for public comment until 26 March 2008.

- The Guidelines responded to an emerging method of MAb production that can replace the use of animals in one of the MAb production stages. The Guidelines state that *in vivo* production should not be undertaken, however allow for certain exceptional circumstances in which it may be justifiable. While input on all parts of the guidelines are welcomed, in particular, evidence based comments are being sought on whether these exceptions are still valid.
- Copies of the draft guidelines are available from the NHMRC website [www.nhmrc.gov.au/consult/index.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/consult/index.htm) or may be obtained by calling (02) 6217 9070

#### **Review: Infection Control Guidelines**

- The NHMRC is undertaking a review of the *Infection Control Guidelines*, in partnership with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, and supported by the Communicable Disease Network Australia. A key aim of the review is to develop national standards for infection prevention and control that are relevant to all healthcare settings in Australia.
- A draft Guideline should be ready for public consultation after December 2008, and the final version available in July 2009

#### **Download *Great Minds in Health***

- Subscribe to our new pod cast series, and you can download conversations with some of the great minds in Australian medical research:  
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/news/podcasts/index.htm>