

Supplementary submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation.

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1) Fran Bailey asked me to say what was better about overseas systems of funding medical research compared to Australia. I answered at the time that I had not been overseas for some time. A more useful answer would have been that we do in fact receive grant funding from overseas funding organisation and none of them use a system like the NH&MRC of only paying partial salaries. If you successfully make the case that you need a researcher with a certain level of skills with other funding agencies, then that position is fully funded. The NH&MRC is the only funding agency in the world that does what it does, of partially funding agreed necessary positions on grants with its Personnel Support Packages (PSPs).

2) I did not really realise how much we could try to suggest solutions to problems. In relation to the majority of DEEWR funding for PhD students coming through 3-5 years after the PhD student has completed, the ideal situation would be for sufficient funding to be made available during the tenure of the PhD student in the laboratory, up to say \$20,000 per year, with a bonus for completion after the PhD is completed.

3) Another question that was discussed at the hearing in Perth was how to try to support innovation in research. In a previous version of NH&MRC funding, NH&MRC Fellows, when they were awarded their Fellowship, also received a 5-year project grant to go with the Fellowship. That project grant could be used for more innovative projects. That system has been abolished now and now the Fellow only receives the Fellowship, with no attached project grant, so there is a chance that a Fellow may have a Fellowship with no project grant funding.