

NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FUNDING

Mrs TAYLOR (Elwick) - I, too, want to go on record as giving the strongest possible support to the Menzies institute and to this House making it clear to the Federal Government that we would view very gravely any cut to the funding of the NHMRC.

There are areas where we can cut costs, both federally and in State budgets, but there are other areas where we absolutely cannot afford to cut costs, and scientific research, as has already been said, is absolutely vital. Health research is really important and not only for the economy, as has been said, and not only for health issues but also for our future generations. This institute has our own young scientists and not so young scientists, because scientists who are more mature are also wonderful scientists. We attract students and researchers from around the world to this institute as it has a very high reputation, as we know, because of the history of the research that has been done and also the current and future research projects. We attract students from around the world which inspires our own population and our own students to look at what they might be able to do in the future and where their careers might go. It is vital not just for our health research but also for our economy, as has already been said.

I am really pleased that the member for Murchison raised the issue about preventive health because again that is, economically speaking, a huge investment in our future and we do need to look at that in a long-term way rather than in short-term investment. For our own community and for national and international importance I would like to give my strongest possible support to the motion.