



**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP  
Minister for Health**

**MESSAGE TO THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE'S EARLY AND MID-CAREER  
RESEARCHER FORUM**

I congratulate the Academy of Science on the inaugural meeting of the Early and Mid-Career Researcher Forum being held in Canberra.

Australia has an enviable record of producing world class researchers. But it is essential that we continue to nurture the talent of our emerging research leaders.

I know that it is service, to your science, to the community, and to your country that drives many of you. Research is one of the truly noble professions, and the Government is extremely grateful for the life-changing work you do. You are the research leaders that will help Australia respond to the health issues of the future.

The Australian Government, through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), is similarly committed to supporting your development through Early Career and Career Development Fellowships. There are, of course, other schemes such as NHMRC's Project Grants that can provide you with opportunities to further develop your research skills and ideas.

I recognise that there are still issues facing you as emerging leaders. That is why I'm pleased that the NHMRC has established a Postdoctoral Reference Group as an opportunity for feedback on issues relating to your crucial post-PhD years.

I hope that you enjoy the forum, and I look forward to hearing your ideas about how we can better support your careers and the important work you do.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tanya Plibersek'.

**Tanya Plibersek**

24.9.12