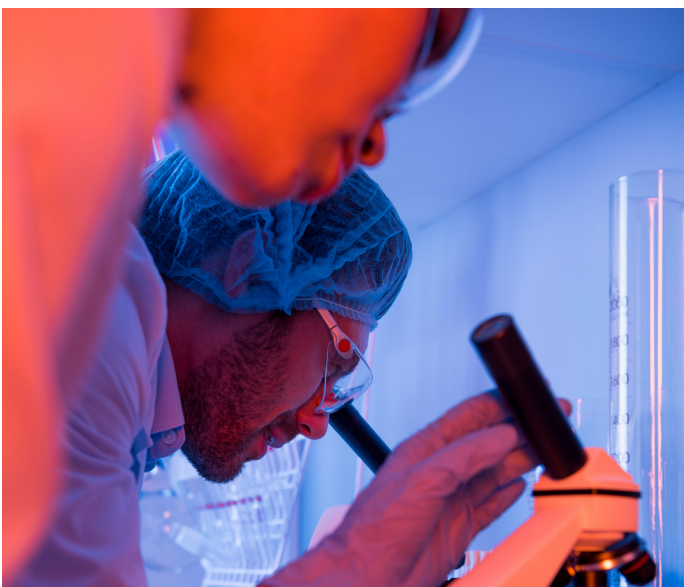


# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

## Investing in the knowledge economy

The Greens will invest in science and research and foster a culture where experimentation, invention and innovation can flourish in Australia. The Greens' plan will help build a smarter, more prosperous Australia. Our comprehensive plan will invest in rebuilding skills, research and infrastructure after 6 years of neglect and cuts from an anti-science Coalition government.

We'll increase funding, improve access to information, foster international collaboration, protect key research institutions and fund the research and innovation Australia needs. Our plan will make Australia one of the top investors in the world in research and development.



### THE GREENS WILL:

- Put Australia on a pathway to investing 4% of GDP in science, research and innovation
- Make jobs for scientists and researchers more secure
- Reverse funding cuts to CSIRO and other public research agencies.

## TOWARDS 4% OF GDP IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Australia has a strong history of groundbreaking scientific and innovative advancements. People all across the world have benefited from life-saving discoveries made by Australia's outstanding researchers. The Greens believe we need a strong research sector in Australia to help move away from the polluting industries of the past and deliver the jobs of the future.

Unfortunately, Australia is under-performing in innovation when compared to other major OECD countries, ranking 20th in the Global Innovation Index.<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth Government investment in research and development is at the lowest level in forty years.<sup>2</sup>

We need meaningful investment in science, research and innovation to supercharge our economy and make Australia a global leader in new and emerging research and technology.

The Greens will make the investment Australia needs. We have a comprehensive public funding road map to increase public and private investment in Research and Development (R&D) to 4% of GDP by 2030. This will put Australia back on track to being a global leader in new and emerging research and technology. Our plan includes significant public investment across key areas.

### **The Greens will establish Australia as a world leader in research by:**

- Creating a 'Protecting Science' package, consisting of a \$2.557 billion boost to the Australia Research Council, National Health & Medical Research Council, and Cooperative Research Centres over the next decade;
- Providing \$1.054 billion to promote health and medical research by supporting the maintenance and disbursement of the Medical Research Future Fund; funding four new integrated health research centres; and increasing funding for health and medical research;
- Increasing funding to the Research Infrastructure Investment Strategy by \$2.177 billion over the decade.
- Restoring the Sustainable Research Excellence program and boosting university research;

- Providing \$60.2 million over the forwards to invest in strategic opportunities for international collaboration; and
- Providing \$185.1 million over the forwards to ensure Open Access Publishing of Government funded research.

### **The Greens will spend over \$2.5 billion over the decade to support equitable and ongoing employment opportunities for researchers by:**

- Establishing a 'Secure Work for Researchers' fund to assist universities and research institutes to transition their workers to ongoing, secure employment;
- Providing support for women in science;
- Ensuring additional funding to support early and mid-career researchers to attract and retain top research talents; and
- Investing in teacher training in STEM education.

### **The Greens will provide financial relief for research and development by:**

- Reversing years of funding cuts to the CSIRO, other science and research agencies and prevent further job cuts. We are committed to an additional \$40 million (5%) in annual government funding to the CSIRO, reversing the Coalition's Budget cuts, as well as funding the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists and providing over \$100 million to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
- Improving the R&D Tax Incentive by reversing millions of dollars of government cuts and providing a 20% non refundable tax offset for companies that hire STEM PhD or equivalent graduates to work in their field of expertise.

<sup>1</sup> Global Innovation Index, Analysis, 2018, <<https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/analysis-indicator>>

<sup>2</sup> Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/science-research-and-innovation-sri-budget-tables>