

5 February 2026

The Hon. Dr Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer - jim.chalmers.mp@aph.gov.au

The Hon. Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing - minister.butler@health.gov.au

Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher MP
Minister for Finance - senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au

Dear Treasurer, Minister Butler and Minister Gallagher,

Medical research matters

The Australasian Sleep Association is the peak body for clinicians, scientists and researchers working in sleep health and sleep medicine. Every day we see the impact of medical research on patients, communities and the Australian population.

We want to add the voices of the sleep community to the urgent call for the Government to release the full \$1 billion annual disbursement from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) in the 2026–27 Federal Budget.

With only \$650 million being released each year, medical research is being starved of its true potential to deliver economic, health and social benefits to all Australians.

In the world of sleep research, we are already seeing young and mid-career researchers leaving the country, or abandoning research altogether due to limited career opportunities. For such a new and growing field of research, where Australia well and truly stands head and shoulders above other similar-sized nations, this tragedy could have a long-lasting impact on the sleep health of both Australians and people across the globe.

We believe that fully releasing MRFF allocations every year will:

- Drive economic growth and strengthen Australia's position as a global leader in medical research.
- Keep our researchers working on groundbreaking cures and treatments for Australians in Australia.
- Protect jobs and ensure vital research projects aren't abandoned.

As the leaders of this country, please ensure the MRFF delivers what Australians were promised—sustainable funding for medical research that saves lives.

Yours sincerely,



Associate Professor Jasneek Chawla
President