

Australian Rotary Health

Australian Rotary Health is **one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia.**

Australian Rotary Health provides funding into areas of health that do not readily attract funding, and promotes findings to the community.

Australian Rotary Health is a project of the Rotary Districts of Australia and is supported by Rotary Clubs. It has a broad vision to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

History

ARH Was established in 1981 by Rotarian Ian Scott and the Rotary Club of Mornington Victoria to research the mystery of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Other previous major research focuses have included:

- Adolescent Health
- Family Health
- Ross River Virus

Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and Districts have funded over \$36 million of research since it began (**District 9465 has donated \$1,335,224.62**)– ARH also receives support from commercial and government supporters

Australian Rotary Health currently provides funding into four focus areas:

- Mental Health Research
- General Health Research
- Rural Medical and Nursing Scholarships
- Indigenous Health Scholarships

Indigenous Health Scholarships

First established in 2002 by the South Australian Rotary Club of Mitcham, the program is a co-operation between Australian Rotary Health, Rotary clubs, some State or Territory Governments and the Commonwealth Government.

The object of this program is to provide a scholarship, which can be used to assist Indigenous students with their day-to-day expenses while they undertake a course in a wide range of health related professions. It supports student in a range of health areas including Nursing, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Psychology and Dentistry

The purpose of the program is to assist students to gain an education which will in turn enable them to use this education for the benefit of other Indigenous people – hopefully, but not necessarily, in some of our remote areas.

The value of each scholarship is \$5,000 per year. A Rotary Club contributes \$2,500 per year and the State or Commonwealth Government provides a similar amount. The Commonwealth Government also provides funding for the administration of the program within the Australian Rotary Health office.

**In 2016 \$375,000 of funding has been allocated for Indigenous Health Scholarships
RC Southern Districts sponsored Daniel Hunt to study Dentistry at UWA**

Value for Money

Australian Rotary Health is classified as a Health Promotion Charity, which means it is exempt from Income Tax and donations are Tax Deductible.

- \$20 - could fund an individual's 10 week phone support program trial.
- \$50 - could subsidise a new treatment session for a study participant.
- \$100 - could fund a 5-10 person research focus group.

Hat Day

Hat Day is an initiative of Australian Rotary Health and is held annual during Mental Health Week. 100% of proceeds go to funding research into helping those affected by depression, anxiety schizophrenia and many other illnesses. In 2015 over 500 organisations, individuals and Rotary Clubs hosted Hat Day events around Australia and raised over \$100,000 for mental health research.