

## CMA Media Release

26 March 2018

### **CMA applauds \$1.5 million complementary medicine research support led by Blackmores and BioCeuticals**

Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) applauds well-known industry members, Blackmores and BioCeuticals for contributing to \$1.5 million in funding support for two new research fellowships within the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM) at the University of Technology Sydney.

Chief executive officer of CMA, Mr Carl Gibson, said: “It is commendable to see Blackmores, BioCeuticals and the Jacka Foundation donating funding to a scientific research program which will focus on better understanding consumer use of traditional, complementary and integrative healthcare.”

“An estimated 70 per cent of Australians use complementary medicines to support their health, either as adjunctive therapy to conventional medicines, to help manage chronic disease, prevent the exacerbation of illness, or to optimise nutrition and wellbeing. Individuals have been increasingly choosing natural therapies, which is reflected by the complementary and natural therapies sector outperforming the wider economy.”

“Given the potential benefits of complementary medicine as a tool towards health promotion and disease prevention, complementary medicine research is a priority area for research funding. Chronic disease is responsible for 83 per cent of all premature deaths in Australia and 66 per cent of the burden of disease, making it the largest health challenge facing our nation.<sup>i</sup> Half of all Australians already have at least one chronic disease, and with an ageing population, the need to place a stronger focus upon preventive health is becoming increasingly important.”<sup>iiiii</sup>

“Private research funding from industry and philanthropic sources has always been a valuable contributor to health and medical research. In the context of maximising the health outcomes of the Australian population, the importance of funding support for complementary medicines research cannot be stressed enough,” Mr Gibson went on to say.

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<sup>i</sup> Jackson H, Shiell A. (2017) Preventive health: How much does Australia spend and is it enough? Canberra: Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

<sup>ii</sup> Australian Government. (2015). New stats reveal 50% of Australians battling disease. Accessed from <https://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2015-lev100.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> McKell Institute (2017). Picking the Low-Hanging Fruit. Achieving a More Equitable and Sustainable Health Care System.

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