



Hon Mike Nahan MLA
Treasurer



Hon John Day MLA
Minister for Health

23/12/16

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Improving rehabilitation with research funding

- **Attracting the best and brightest for innovative research on catastrophic injuries**

Western Australia's brightest neurotrauma researchers will be able to apply for \$600,000 in funding to undertake innovative research aimed at improving rehabilitation for people with catastrophic injuries.

The Liberal National Government today announced the Insurance Commission of Western Australia will provide the funding over three years, from July 1, 2017 to the Neurotrauma Research Program at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.

Treasurer Mike Nahan said neurotrauma researchers across WA would be able to apply for funding through the program, using the funds to find innovative solutions to rehabilitation and care challenges faced by people with acquired brain and spinal cord injuries.

"This funding will enable our State's leading neurotrauma experts to improve the rehabilitation outcomes of people with catastrophic injuries, while attempting to bring down the cost of those catastrophic insurance claims," Dr Nahan said.

"Of the \$631 million paid to injured people in car crashes and workplace accidents during 2016, about \$200 million (or 30 per cent) was paid to people with catastrophic injuries despite those cases making up less than one per cent of the Insurance Commission's claimants."

Health Minister John Day said the initiative aligned with the State Government's Innovation and Health strategies to attract and engage the best and brightest talent to transform the lives of many West Australians.

"The involvement of the Insurance Commission is warmly welcomed by the health and disability research community, and by people living with the catastrophic effects of neurotrauma injuries," Mr Day said.

"This will ensure WA remains at the forefront of the latest research and helps to make a real difference in the lives of people living with acquired brain and spinal cord injuries."

Fact File

- **\$631 million paid to injured people in car crashes and workplace accidents during 2016**
- **Neurotrauma researchers across WA will be able to apply for funding through the Neurotrauma Research Program at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research**
- **The \$600,000 of funding will be available over three years from July 1, 2017**
- **For more information, visit <http://www.icwa.wa.gov.au>**

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