

Harry Perkins Institute awarded \$600,000 funding for neurotrauma research

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Prof Peter Leedman with Communication Education manager at the Harry Perkins Institute.

NEDLANDS' Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research will receive \$600,000 from the State Government to provide grants to neurotrauma researchers undertaking studies aimed at improving rehabilitation for people with catastrophic injuries.

The Insurance Commission of Western Australia will provide the funding over three years, from July 1, 2017 to the Neurotrauma Research Program at the Institute.

Neurotrauma researchers across Western Australia will be able to apply for funding through the program, using the funds to find solutions to rehabilitation and care challenges faced by people with acquired brain and spinal cord injuries.

Treasurer Mike Nahan said the funding will enable the 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.

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

Health Minister John Day said the initiative "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".