

## **\$24 M boost to research targeting better health outcomes for women in Australia**

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**The funding is part of an \$241 million investment in research through the National Health and Medical Research Council's 2022 Ideas Grant scheme**



Australian government is investing over \$24 million in health and medical research focusing on women's health to develop targeted treatments and improve health outcomes.

Breast and ovarian cancer, endometriosis and the mental health impacts of infertility treatment are among 23 projects funded in the National Health and Medical Research Council's 2022 Ideas Grant funding.

Among the recipients is Associate Professor Stacey Edwards who, with her group at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, will explore how DNA variation contributes to ovarian cancer.

Recent studies have identified human DNA markers linked to an increased risk of ovarian cancer but the critical genes that drive this risk are not yet known.

With around 1,800 new cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed in Australia each year and a 5-year survival rate below 50%, there is an urgent need to improve options for treatment of women with this disease.

\$1.4 million grant has been awarded to Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute to allow Associate Professor Anna Calkin to investigate the differences between men and women's heart response to exercise.

Another example is of \$1.1 million grant to Monash University for a project led by Fiona Cousins to investigate immunomodulators as an innovative treatment for endometriosis, a chronic and debilitating disease that affects 1 in 9 women.