



# Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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20 June 2022

### PUTTING NSW AT THE FOREFRONT OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

NSW is set to be at the forefront of cutting-edge health treatments thanks to a \$270 million boost to biomedical research in the 2022-23 NSW Budget.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said this funding will completely transform the industry, setting NSW up to lead the way on research to fast track real-world health outcomes, including for rare, life-limiting diseases.

“This investment in biomedical technology and research demonstrates the NSW Government’s commitment to leading the way in new and emerging industries and continuing to invest in state-of-the-art health and research precincts,” Mr Williams said.

“Most importantly, this funding boost will offer new hope for those members of our community living with rare, and previously untreatable conditions.”

The \$270.3 million investment in the 2022-23 NSW Budget includes:

- **\$143.3 million** for the Sydney Biomedical Accelerator Complex over four years, a state-of-the-art biomedical research complex co-located at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney;
- **\$51.8 million** over four years to accelerate NSW’s commercial scale viral vector products for both research and clinical trials purposes;
- **\$49.6 million** to build a commercially viable Viral Vector Manufacturing Facility (VVMF) which will manufacture viral vectors, essential components for most gene replacement therapies, and
- **\$25.6 million** for 2022-23 for innovative and lifesaving gene-based therapies such as CAR T-cell therapy.

Viral vectors are viruses that have their genetic material replaced by a genetic medicine. They are increasingly being used in the development of COVID-19 vaccines but are also vital in providing life-saving gene replacement therapies to patients such as CAR T-cell therapy, which itself offers hope for remission and long-term survival for people with blood cancers.

Mr Williams said the Sydney Biomedical Accelerator Complex would transform the biomedical research capabilities and accelerate innovation in NSW to tackle some of the most difficult and complex health challenges of our time, whilst investment into viral vector technology would significantly improve patient access to clinical trials.



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“The Liberals and Nationals are putting NSW at the forefront of innovative health care and providing patients with greater access to locally-based, cutting-edge treatment options to secure a brighter future for us all,” Mr Williams said.

This Viral Vector Manufacturing Facility project located at the Westmead Health and Innovation Precinct is a collaboration between NSW Treasury, Investment NSW, and various NSW Health entities, including Health Infrastructure, Office of Health and Medical Research, Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network and with support from Children’s Medical Research Institute and Western Sydney Local Health District.

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