

## *SUBMISSION TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT: THE TREASURY*

*As the Australian Government seeks public consultation on a revised draft of legislation that will restate the 'in Australia' special conditions for tax concession entities, the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) calls for registered charities to continue to be allowed to fund specialised medical research where an extensive and coordinated global effort from Australia is required.*

*CERA is Australia's preeminent eye research institute employing approximately 120 staff to investigate and develop new treatment options for pervasive eye diseases. For the last five years, CERA has been engaged by the Lowy Medical Research Institute to carry out detailed laboratory research, and unique natural history research, into the causes, prevention and cure of a debilitating eye disease - Macular Telangiectasia (known as MacTel).*

*The Lowy Medical Research Institute has established a unique collaboration of specialised expert research teams and clinics in Australia and outside Australia to undertake co-ordinated research according to their unique expertise and equipment, and to share the results of that research. This approach has enabled the research undertaken by CERA to utilise advances made by the other research teams, enhancing and furthering our own medical research efforts.*

*If the Lowy Medical Research Institute were not able to engage the specialist research teams outside Australia, the information sharing and research collaboration would dramatically reduce the effectiveness of the research carried out at CERA, and would significantly reduce the research that we are able to carry out. This would be to the detriment of Australians who require treatment for this debilitating condition, and would relegate Australia to the second tier of research in this area.*

*Over the last five years our research into the prevention, causes and cure of MacTel has been funded by the Lowy Medical Research Institute an endorsed deductible gift recipient and recognised charity. To truncate that funding, which we believed would last for at least the next three years, would mean that much of our efforts to date will have been wasted. We hope that a suitable mechanism can be found in the legislative review to ensure that this research survives.*

*We urge the Government to reconsider the proposed amendments and ensure that specialised medical research coordinated from Australia can continue to yield results.*