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JDRF welcomes Budget investment in type 1 diabetes and research

JDRF Australia welcomes the announcement in the 2018 Federal Budget by the Turnbull Government of a number of measures that will benefit people living with type 1 diabetes (T1D).

In the Budget, the Government's commitment to the Insulin Pump Program administered by JDRF was increased from 66 funded pumps a year to 280 a year, sufficient to deal with both the existing waiting list and underlying levels of demand for the program under current parameters.

The 2018 Federal Budget also confirmed a continuation of the of the Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) program administered through the National Diabetes Services Scheme providing access for children under 21 to this life-saving and life-changing technology.

"Insulin pumps and CGMs are helping make the management of type 1 diabetes safer, easier, and more cost-effective everyday" said Mike Wilson, CEO of JDRF Australia. "These two programs are key to providing Australians affected by this disease access to what is now effectively a global standard of care in management. We welcome the continuation of these programs and, hopefully, their future expansion over time".

The Budget also outlined the substantial investment of \$125m over nine years to support translational research and innovation in diabetes and heart disease. Australia is a world leader in early stage research in these areas including all types of diabetes, but the progression of promising health and medical research from the laboratory to proof of concept and readiness for future clinical testing is a well-known challenge.

Mr Wilson said "One of the most enduring challenges in medical research is the translation of promising science beyond academia and to then be ready for clinical trials. This initiative brings the focus, scale, duration, and skill to make that possible in areas of health critical for our nation – diabetes of all types and heart disease. This provides hope for the nearly 5 million Australians affected by one of more of these diseases".

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About JDRF and type 1 diabetes

JDRF is the leading global organisation funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. JDRF Australia is built on a grassroots model of people connecting in their local communities, collaborating regionally for efficiency and broader fundraising impact, and uniting on an international stage to pool resources, passion and energy. Our mission is to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent and treat T1D and its complications. To accomplish this, JDRF has invested nearly \$2 billion since our inception. We collaborate with academic institutions, policymakers, and corporate and industry partners to develop and deliver a pipeline of innovative therapies to people living with T1D. Our staff and volunteers in seven countries are dedicated to advocacy, community engagement and our vision of a world without T1D. For more information, please visit jdrf.org.au.