



## **Horizon Europe, here we come! Dr Monique Ryan celebrates Australia's engagement with the world's largest research fund.**

Dr Monique Ryan MP, Independent Member for Kooyong, has welcomed the Albanese Government's announcement that Australia will pursue closer association with Horizon Europe, the world's largest pooled research fund.

Dr Ryan said the announcement is a positive step that recognises the value of international collaboration in driving scientific excellence and strengthening Australia's economy, but warned against Horizon Europe acting as a replacement for necessary and urgent investment in science and medical research here in Australia.

Says Dr Ryan: "Science and research works best when our world-class researchers are backed to collaborate — across institutions, across disciplines and, in this case, across borders. I've advocated for Australia to join Horizon Europe in my submission to the Economic Reform Roundtable, in a submission to Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and in Parliament."

Drawing on her experience as a paediatric neurologist and medical researcher, Dr Ryan highlighted the real-world benefits of international cooperation.

"I have seen first-hand how smart investment in research transforms patient care. International collaborations have helped deliver new treatments, improved standards of care, and ensured Australian patients are part of clinical trials at the forefront of medical innovation."

Australia's spending on R&D remains well below the OECD average, while public funding of health and medical research has stagnated when it should be surging.

According to Dr Ryan: "Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation program, with a budget of €95.5 billion and participation from more than 45 countries.

"Association with Horizon Europe will give Australian researchers access to world-class infrastructure, collaborative networks, and direct funding — enabling them to lead major international projects and sit at the forefront of global scientific progress. But participation in Horizon Europe is no substitute for properly funding research at home. It must complement — not replace — a sustained increase in investment in our own research sector, particularly in science, health and medical research.

“This is our moment to be ambitious. Full disbursement of the Medical Research Future Fund, proper funding of world-class research through the NHMRC grants process, treatment of science as the nationally significant industry that it is, and deeper engagement with Horizon Europe can enhance Australia’s reputation and create good, secure research jobs.

“I commend the Albanese Government for engaging with this initiative. Now, let’s make sure this decision acts as a catalyst for a renewed commitment to funding and valuing Australian science and research.”