Financial Markets Foundation for Children funds paediatric research

The Financial Markets Foundation for Children has given $5 million each to the University of Sydney, UNSW and the University of Melbourne to fund three permanent chairs in paediatric research. The Chairman of the Foundation, Reserve Bank governor Glenn Stevens, signed off on the donations on Monday 14 September.

The Financial Markets Foundation for Children was established 25 years ago to provide funding for research projects focussing on Australian children’s health. Since 1990 the Foundation has provided over $32 million to more than 220 research projects – including research into cerebral palsy, autism, peanut allergies, Hirschsprung’s disease and mental health.

UNSW will use its $5 million donation to found a chair of paediatric population health, which will investigate the factors influencing the health problems of disadvantaged children and looking for ways to change them. UNSW chancellor, ANZ chairman David Gonski, welcomed the gift. “The financial markets are often seen as hard not giving. That’s changed,” Mr Gonski said.

University of Sydney chancellor Belinda Hutchinson said the donation will pay for new academic chairs in the Charles Perkins Centre, which brings together multi-disciplinary researchers to combat the growing incidence of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular problems.