



# Biotech Daily

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*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

## Ausbiotech: 'Sector Worried By Threat To R&D Incentive'

Ausbiotech says its annual survey shows “a worrying fall in business sentiment across the sector led by uncertainty over the [Research and Development] Tax Incentive”.

Ausbiotech said the survey, supported by accountancy firm Grant Thornton, had responses from 43 chief executive officers and showed that while there was strength in the life sciences growth trajectory, business sentiment was negative due to “the steady erosion of government support”.

The industry organization said that 14 percent of respondents, or six CEOs, described the Australian operating environment as “conducive to growing a biotech business”, down from 37 percent in the previous survey.

Ausbiotech said the results were “the worst ... this decade” suggesting a “challenging” period ahead, with 26 percent of respondents believing the environment “works against growing a biotech business”, up from 16 percent in the previous corresponding period.

Ausbiotech chief executive officer Lorraine Chiroiu said the “industry is frustrated at the Government’s lack of commitment to a business environment that better supports our cutting-edge research and development, however, Australia’s strength in life sciences still shines globally and contributes nationally [both] economically and socially”.

Grant Thornton life sciences head Michael Cunningham said “we need greater support to the commercialization process to keep the profits and future development opportunities from the life sciences sector here in Australia”.

“Emerging markets in the Asia-Pacific region are making biotechnology a priority, and Australia must continue to provide an attractive landscape for life sciences firms to conduct [research and development], manufacturing and domestic distribution activities to fuel growth in 2019 and beyond,” Mr Cunningham said.

Ausbiotech said there was a strong view that, as research left public institutions for commercialization, support for technology transfer and commercialization diminished.

The survey said that ineffective policy decisions were a result of poor metrics and a lack of understanding of the skills and investment needed for biotechnology’s future.

Ausbiotech said Australia was preparing for a “regenerative medicine revolution” which would disrupt the health treatments available to patients world-wide.

The survey said that the sentiment to medicinal marijuana was shifting and Australian companies were demonstrating “the medicinal value for patients”.

The survey is available at: <https://bit.ly/2KecGC3>.