



Population Health Congress 2008

Congress Declaration

We the undersigned Australian and Australasian population health associations declare our support for and belief in, the values enunciated in the World Health Organisation declaration that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. We believe that health is a basic and universal human right and is essential for social and economic development.

We call on government at all levels, industry, civil society and other key stakeholders to act effectively on the social determinants of health that underpin many of the causes of ill health in our society and that lead to unfair health outcomes.

In the context of large-scale environmental change, including climate change, we call for urgent and immediate action to achieve a just and sustainable society as the greatest health priority this century.

We call on all key stakeholders to invest in sustainable policies, actions and infrastructure to address the determinants of health. In doing so we believe that individuals and society will be able to take action through informed decisions that allow the fullest attainment of health.

Furthermore we affirm our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the Australian and New Zealand populations through collective action that advocates for:

- Healthy public policy.
- Health development focusing on environments that support and enhance health.
- Reducing health inequities within and between populations.
- Improvements in the quality of life of the Australian and New Zealand populations.

Collectively, our associations share common ideals to reduce the burden of disease through processes that protect the population, prevent disease and promote individual and collective health and well being. We share knowledge and experience through research, professional training and communication. Through the use of evidence, our associations strive to influence through evidence, public policy that creates, supports and sustains healthy environments. We share a common belief that government support and community mobilisation are needed to effect change in policy and practice through multisectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration. Our associations share a common commitment to lobby for support to change the health care system to one that allocates resources equitably across the health continuum.

We agree in principle to reconvene a Congress in four years time to review our progress in achieving collective action on the above points and to bring together population health researchers, policy makers and program providers once again to share their experiences and knowledge in improving the health of our populations.

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