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ACE-PREVENTION REPORT SAVE LIVES, SAVE MONEY

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has welcomed the NHMRC (Assessing Cost Effectiveness) Prevention Report that provides the state of the art internationally on what works in prevention and what doesn't work. It provides a blue-print for the new government to build on the work of the Preventative Health Taskforce with measures we know will improve the health of the community.

Professor Mike Daube, President of the PHAA said "This report gives us the best possible evidence about where we can act to improve the nation's health. It is a remarkable piece of work. It shows that measures such as taxes on alcohol, tobacco and junk food, a polypill and certain forms of screening and early intervention can make a massive difference to the health of our community, and also where we can bring significant benefits to Indigenous health".

"The obesity epidemic alone will result in this generation of Australian children facing a reduced lifespan. This and a range of further health problems are preventable if we act on the basis of the clear evidence we now have."

"Only 2% of national health-spend goes to prevention. It is time to increase our investment in prevention so that millions of Australians can live longer, health lives".

Professor Mike Daube added: "By acting now, we could prevent a million premature deaths among Australians now alive. The jury is in and we have clear evidence on what works in some crucial areas. The only real opposition to action will come from commercial interests. Governments around the country now have the best possible evidence for action that can keep Australians alive and healthy."

The ACE-Prevention project was funded by the NHMRC and is supported by VicHealth, the Public Health Association of Australia and the Lowitja Institute (formerly the Cooperative Research Centre-Aboriginal Health).

ENDS

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