

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2010

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## PHAA 40th Annual Conference

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Public Health in a 21st Century Society:

New ways of | knowing | doing | living |



# Conference Resolutions

27 - 29 September 2010  
Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide



Public Health Association  
AUSTRALIA

1)

**Proposer's name:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SIG (Jess Stewart and/or Vanessa Lee) and Women's Health SIG (Angela Taft and Rhonda Small)

**Title:** Minerals resource rent tax hypothecation for 'Closing the Gap'.

**Summary justification:**

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional owners of the land
- The final estimated resident Indigenous population of Australia as at 30 June 2006 was 517,000 people, or 2.5% of the total Australian population (ABS).
- Mining companies profit from their extraction of resources from the land.
- Colonisation, dispossession, racism and human rights breaches have created enormous disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in physical, social and spiritual wellbeing.
- It is intolerable that in a wealthy country such as Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still do not have adequate housing, infrastructure for essential services, sanitation, food security, education, employment and comprehensive primary healthcare.
- Hypothecation should at least match the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.

**Resolution:**

**This conference calls on the Australian Government to:**

- hypothecate not less than 2.5% of the proposed minerals resource rent tax for the provision of a community based essential service and housing infrastructure fund to be expended in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

**Note:** Immediate advocacy for this resolution should include a media release and sending a copy to all members of the Australian parliament.

2)

**Proposer's name:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SIG (Jess Stewart and/or Vanessa Lee) and Women's Health SIG (Angela Taft and Rhonda Small)

**Title:** Establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senate "Estimates Committee"

**Summary justification:**

- *There is a need to hold governments accountable for expenditure of funding intended to 'close the gap'.*
- *One way to do this is to establish a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body to function as an "Aboriginal Senates Estimates Committee"*
- *Such a committee needs the resources to be able to undertake research for the purpose of holding all government departments and Ministers accountable for expenditure and for monitoring the implementation and outcomes of such expenditure.*

**Resolution:**

**This conference calls on the Senate to:**

Establish a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander "Senate Estimates Committee" with the resources to carry out the appropriate research

3)

**Proposer's name:** Patsy Bourke

**Title:** Injury prevention as a major public health issue

Summary justification

- Injury is both a poorly recognised and funded major public health issue, despite a 25 year history of national reports and policies that identify the magnitude.
- In 2005-6, Injury and Poisoning accounted for more than 370,000 cases of Australian hospitalisations
- Indigenous burden of injury: the greatest inequality
- Injury prevention needs to be recognised as a cross-portfolio issue
- The Australian Health Ministers on 28 July 2005 endorsed the plans developed by the National Public Health Partnership (NPHP). These included three documents: *The National Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Plan: 2004 – 2014*; *The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Safety Promotion Strategy*; and *The National Falls Prevention for Older People Plan: 2004 Onwards*
- There has been some national activity to update the falls prevention best practice documents released in 2009, but otherwise no resources have been applied for the plans to be implemented or to the above documents.

**Resolution**

**This conference calls on the government to:**

- *Establish a national advisory group to develop nationally coordinated and appropriately funded approaches regarding the National Injury Prevention Plans with clear National Injury Indicators*
- *Include Injury Prevention and safety promotion in the National Prevention Agency priorities*
- *Ensure collaborative action across key agencies, disciplines and sectors*
- *Address mobility of older Australians as a priority issue for collaboration between Health, Transport and Infrastructure portfolios at all levels of government*

4)

**Proposer's name:** Bruce Simmons on behalf of Oral Health SIG

**Title:** Action from government on oral health care

**Summary justification:**

- Oral health is essential for general health and wellbeing,
- Minister Roxon has `invited stakeholders `to come to the table
- given current progressive positions on oral health care, the political climate is good for reform but government's record is very poor on both policy and funding for oral health.
- PHAA/OHSIG can and should be a key player.

**Resolution:**

**This conference resolves:**

For the PHAA to continue to demand action from government until fair, equitable prevention - focused oral health services (including treatment) are accessible by all Australians.

**5)****Proposer's name:** Bruce Simmons**Summary justification:**

- **Links to PHAA `Aims` of 'universally accessible and health promoting primary health care and hospital services' and 'promote universal health literacy'.**
- **Health institutions should encourage compassionate, person-centred and socially aware health service provision**
- **A changed approach is needed to achieve such competencies**
- **See Sir Michael Marmot WHO Report Clause 16.5(?)**

**Resolution****This conference calls on PHAA:**

to work with the newly established Council of Academic Public Health Institutions of Australia (CAPHIA) to drive improvements in the health workforce and into the health education and CPD institutions aiming to encourage compassionate, person-centred and socially aware health service provision which is essential for a healthy population

6)

## **RESOLUTION**

### **PHAA 2010 National Conference to provides:**

- IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT for the PHAA to develop a POSITION STATEMENT based on endorsing the Aboriginal community controlled comprehensive primary health care model and recommending that this model and related measures be implemented more broadly throughout the health system as part of the health reform process.