

MEDIA ALERT

Experts gather in Hobart to improve Australians access to safe & healthy food

Where: Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey Street, Hobart

When: Tuesday 22 – Wednesday 23 November 2011

Time: Commencing 8:30am each day.

Food and nutrition experts and practitioners from around the country and eminent overseas visitors are coming together for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) 2nd National Food Futures Conference in Hobart. This year's focus on *Safe and Healthier Food for All Australians* has attracted around 200 participants, looking to showcase and debate new ideas. Headline issues to be discussed include: the contribution of agriculture, manufacturing and retail sectors to better food and health outcomes; how intersectoral collaboration can improve access to safe and healthy food for communities; and how legislation can improve access and health outcomes.

The conference will be formally opened by PHAA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Michael Moore, at 8:30am on Tuesday 22 November 2011. Professor Barrie Margetts from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Southampton in the UK will discuss the global context at the beginning of the day's proceedings to set the scene for conference discussions. Professor Margetts is one of the world's leading public health nutritionists and is currently the President of the World Public Health Nutrition Association.

Food and nutrition policy makers, researchers, private sector organisations, service delivery agencies and community groups working in areas related to food and nutrition will be among the groups represented at the conference, which will bring together around 200 people from a variety of backgrounds to determine new ways to improve access to safe and healthy food and achieve better health outcomes for Australians.

"Among the hot topics to be discussed at the conference will be challenges associated with coordinating cross-sectoral efforts and improving access to safe and healthy food for disadvantaged communities. The conference also has a strong focus on the importance of public and private sectors working together to improve access to safe and healthy food to achieve better health outcomes for all Australians," said PHAA CEO Michael Moore.

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA):

0417 249 731

An outline of the conference program is available on the PHAA website at:

http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/2ndFood_Program.pdf

Sponsors of the 2nd National Food Futures Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Population Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania; Department of Health (VIC); Heart Foundation and the Primary Food Alliance.