

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 2010

CONFERENCE FOCUS ON NEW NATIONAL IMMUNISATION POLICY

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and overseas have come together for the 12th National Immunisation Conference in Adelaide. The three day conference concludes today, with a particular focus on the development of the new National Immunisation Strategy and future policy directions.

“The new National Immunisation Strategy, to be developed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing over the next two years, will guide Australia’s approach to the prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases into the future. The development of the strategy is also particularly exciting given the context of the new national health reforms and the proposed introduction of personally-controlled electronic health records,” said Professor Peter MacIntyre, Director of the Australian National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Among the experts speaking on the final day of the conference will be: Professor Raina MacIntyre, Head of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the Uni of NSW; Professor Robert Booy, Head of the Clinical Research Team at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance; Professor Elizabeth Miller from the Centre for Infections in the UK’s Health Protection Agency; Jennifer Bryant, First Assistant Secretary of the Office of Health Protection in the Department of Health and Ageing; and Dr Steve Hamblin, Vice President of the Australian Medical Association.

“Another particular feature of the final day’s program will be the announcement of the winner of the prestigious *National Immunisation Achievement Award* as well as a Conference Resolutions session at 2pm, when delegates will develop key advocacy messages to inform lobbying activities over the next two years. Traditionally the Conference Resolutions session is where delegates synthesise the learnings from the 3-day conference into instructions for government action to address key challenges and concerns,” said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Health Association of Australia.

What: 12th National Immunisation Conference
Where: Adelaide Convention Centre
When: Thursday 19 August 2010
Time: 9am – 3:30pm

For general comment on the conference:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia: 0417 249 731

For access to presenters for comment/interviews; copies of presentation abstracts; and/or further information on the conference:

Melanie Walker, Conference Media Contact: 0438 430 963

An outline of the conference program is available on the PHAA website at:
<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/ImmunisationPROGRAM2010-1.pdf>

Sponsors of the 12th National Immunisation Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; CSL Biotherapies; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur Pty Ltd; Wyeth Vaccines – Australia; Baxter; and Novartis Vaccines.