

MEDIA ALERT

Experts Gather in Canberra to Stop Spread of Infectious Diseases

Where: Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton ACT

When: Monday 4 – Wednesday 6 April 2011

Time: Commencing at 9am each day

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and eminent overseas visitors are coming together for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) Communicable Disease Control Conference in Canberra. The conference focus on *Science and Public Health: Meeting the challenges of a new decade* has attracted a record number of participants, looking to showcase and debate new ideas.

The event will be formally opened by Michael Moore, PHAA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), at 9am on Monday 4 April 2011.

The conference will focus on the problems caused by recent outbreaks in Australia and the latest evidence on ways to fight infectious diseases. The biennial conference is being held by PHAA in association with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia and the Public Health Laboratory Network, with around 300 delegates due to attend this year's event.

"Among the hot topics to be discussed at the conference will be the push to establish an Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC). Globalisation, travel and environmental change have given rise to new communicable disease threats. The creation of such an agency would mirror similar structures overseas and provide strong central leadership and coordination of national communicable disease control efforts," said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Health Association of Australia.

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/CDC_Program2011.pdf

Sponsors of the Communicable Disease Control Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Baxter; CSL Biotherapies; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur Pty Ltd; and Wyeth Vaccines – Australia.