

## Call for change on approaches to food

“Drivers for change” is theme for next phase of The Public Health Association of Australia’s (PHAA) *Food Futures: an Australian Perspective* Conference in Canberra on its second day on April 21.

CEO of the PHAA, Michael Moore, said “Yesterday the conference examined health, agricultural, environmental and social impacts of food policy. The writing is on the wall – and we now need to look to see what levers are available to change the approach that we are taking as a nation. Policy changes have to be coordinated across all levels of government”.

Today’s conference will hear from Professor Warwick Anderson, the CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council about linking research to policy.

The Chair of the conference’s scientific committee, Assoc Professor Heather Yeatman from Wollongong University will highlight the role that communities play in bringing about the change that is needed.

The CEO of the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC), Kate Carnell, will discuss the role of industry in the future of food..

The final keynote speaker for the morning will be Commissioner David Kalisch from the Australian Productivity Commission who will speak about the variability of food safety standards between jurisdictions and different tiers of government.

Food security will be examined in the form of a debate. The Hon Mark Butler, Parliamentary Secretary for Health with responsibility for food will argue “*Australia’s future security is dependent on food*” with the support of Dr Rosemary Stanton. Senator Gary Humphries has agreed to put the negative case with the support of Dietitians Association of Australia CEO Claire Hewat.

Michael Moore added “On the first day of this conference we learnt about a range of issues. Obesity is already a major cause of ill health and preventable death. Food production will need to provide double the food produced in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and do so within the next fifty years – with less water and less land per capita if population projections are correct. These challenges can only be met if solutions are developed across the spectrum of those with an interest in food”.

ENDS

### For further information/comment:

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**Food Futures Conference:** [www.phaa.net.au](http://www.phaa.net.au)

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS:** [www.phaa.net.au/documents/Food\\_Conf\\_Program.pdf](http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/Food_Conf_Program.pdf)