



## **MEDIA ALERT**

# **PUBLIC SEMINAR & FORUM: Prison Health is Public Health**

**Where:** ACT Legislative Assembly - Reception Room,  
Civic Square, London Circuit, CANBERRA

**When:** Tuesday 22 June 2010

**Time:** 12:30 – 1:30pm

The ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre (ACTHRC), in association with the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), is hosting a lunchtime seminar and forum on *Hepatitis C, prisoners and our community* in Canberra during National Drug Action Week.

The seminar will be opened by Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of PHAA. The program will include a presentation by Professor Geoff Farrell, an eminent hepatologist currently working at The Canberra Hospital, followed by a panel forum discussion lead by Mr Moore along with Professor Farrell; Stuart Loveday, President of Hepatitis Australia; Rebecca Winter, Research Officer at the Burnet Institute; and Wayne Capper, Prisoner Health Advocate.

“It is important for policy makers and the community to understand that public health issues affecting prisoners also affect the general community. Most prisoners spend relatively short periods of time behind bars and then return to their families and communities. Rates of Hepatitis C among prisoners therefore impact on our ability to reduce the spread of Hepatitis C in the broader community,” explained Mr Moore.

“The Burnet Institute is currently conducting an evaluation of drug policies and services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre, so it is timely that the health issues affecting prisoners are being considered during Drug Action Week. In particular, rates of injecting drug use among prisoners and the availability of clean injecting equipment need to be considered in the prison context. The seminar and forum will provide community members with an opportunity to learn more and ask questions of the panel about these issues,” said Ms Robyn Davis, Executive Officer of ACTHRC.

**For further information/comment:**

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

Robyn Davis, Executive Officer, ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre Inc. (02) 6282 2611

A flyer with additional information about the event can be found on the PHAA website at:  
<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/PrisonHealthisPublicHealthFlyer22June2010.pdf>