

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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CONFERENCE FOCUS ON FACING KEY CHALLENGES IN PUBLIC HEALTH

A wide range of people with an interest in public health have gathered in Canberra for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) 39th Annual Conference. The three day conference concludes today, with a particular focus on addressing the key challenges in public health and developing ways forward for improving health outcomes.

"Among the experts speaking on Day 3 of the conference will be: Associate Professor David Whiteman, a QLD-based medical epidemiologist with a special interest in the causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of cancer; Dr Sharon Friel, a social and nutritional epidemiologist from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; and Professor Rob Moodie, Chair of the National Preventative Health Taskforce," said Professor Mike Daube, President of the PHAA.

"The first two days of the conference have primarily looked at ways to ensure that research findings are used effectively to improve policy and service delivery to achieve better health outcomes for the community. On the final day of the conference, we will be looking specifically at some of the big challenges facing public health at the moment, things like poverty, pandemics and climate change, and how we can best address these challenges. It's really all about using the knowledge and skills at our disposal to confront these challenges head-on, in a way that will protect and improve the health of the community," explained Michael Moore, PHAA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

"Another key feature of the program on the final day of the conference will be the conference resolutions session at 2pm, where attendees will finalise recommendations for action to improve public health outcomes in Australia," said Associate Professor Emily Banks, Chair of the Conference Scientific Committee.

What: PHAA'S 39TH Annual Conference - *Making a Difference: Intervening to Improve Health Outcomes*
Where: Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton ACT
When: Wednesday 30 September 2009
Time: 9am – 3:30pm

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia:	0417 249 731
Professor Mike Daube, President, Public Health Association of Australia:	0409 933 933
Associate Professor Emily Banks, Chair of the Conference Scientific Committee	0431 960 268

If you wish to contact particular speakers at the conference, or require copies of presentations delivered, please contact Janine Turnbull on 0418 482 444.

A summarised version of the conference program and biographies for the speakers in plenary sessions can be found on the PHAA website at: <http://www.phaa.net.au/2009AnnualConference.php>

PHAA's 39th Annual Conference is supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; ACT Health and the NSW Department of Health.