

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Around 300 public health experts and practitioners from around the country and eminent overseas visitors have come together for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) 40th Annual Conference in Adelaide. The three day conference continues today, with a particular focus on climate change, the environment and emerging health problems.

"The public health impacts of climate change and other environmental concerns are often overlooked in both political debate and community discussion. The increased outbreaks of dengue fever, and higher rates of hospitalisation and deaths associated with heat waves, are just a couple of examples of tangible impacts on public health in Australia in recent years. The elderly, disadvantaged and Indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable to the increasing impacts of climate change," said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the PHAA.

On the second day of the conference attendees will hear from: Dr Eric Brunner from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College in London; Associate Professor Daryle Rigney from the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority and First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research at Flinders University; and Professor Margaret Alston, Head of the Department of Social Work at Monash University.

"Another particular feature of the second day's program will be the Conference Resolutions Workshop session at 5pm, when delegates will develop key advocacy messages to inform lobbying activities for the PHAA and its members over the coming year. Traditionally, the Conference Resolutions Workshop is where delegates synthesise the learnings from the conference into recommendations for government action to address key challenges and concerns in public health," said Professor Mike Daube, PHAA President.

What: PHAA 40th Annual Conference
Where: Adelaide Convention Centre
When: Tuesday 28 September 2010
Time: 8:30am – 6pm

For general comment on the conference:

Michael Moore, PHAA CEO: 0417 249 731
Professor Mike Daube, PHAA President: 0403 933 933

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/40th_Annual_Program.pdf

Sponsors of the 40th PHAA Annual Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Government of South Australia: SA Health; National Health and Medical Research Council; and New South Wales Department of Health.