

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

CONFERENCE LOOKS AT PUTTING RESEARCH FINDINGS INTO PRACTICE

A wide range of people with an interest in public health are coming together in Canberra for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) 39th Annual Conference. The three day conference continues today, with a particular focus on using evidence to enhance public health outcomes; improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups; and considering the environment and climate change.

"Among the experts speaking on Day 2 of the conference will be: Dr Bobby Milstein from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA; Professor Heather Buchan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute of Clinical Studies; and Professor Michael Smithson from the Department of Psychology at the Australian National University," said Professor Mike Daube, President of the PHAA.

"We are very fortunate to have speakers from the United States, United Kingdom and Australia addressing the conference today to share their expertise across a range of public health disciplines. Today the conference will be focussing on the best ways to make sure that evidence and learnings from research can be applied and put into practice to improve health services and outcomes for communities. There will be a particular emphasis on improving the health status of disadvantaged and at-risk groups, as well as looking at environmental issues and the health impacts of climate change," explained Michael Moore, PHAA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

"Another key feature of the program on the second day of the conference will be the *Douglas Gordon Oration* at 3:30pm. This year's Oration will be delivered by Dr John Powles from the School of Clinical Medicine at the University of Cambridge in the UK. Dr Powles will be talking about how knowledge can be applied to improve health outcomes in a range of contexts, including using knowledge to address current challenges for public health, such as climate change," 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: Tuesday 29 September 2009

Time: 8:30am – 5:30pm

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.