

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

CONFERENCE FOCUS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and eminent overseas visitors are coming together for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) Communicable Disease Control Conference in Canberra. The three day conference continues today, with a particular focus on the impact of infectious diseases on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"Speakers will discuss the latest infectious disease challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including specific problems in Central and Northern Australia, gaps in Indigenous health service delivery and the full range of other factors impacting on communities' ability to address these issues," said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of PHAA.

"Among the experts speaking on the second day of the conference will be Professor Bart Currie, an Infectious Diseases Physician at Royal Darwin Hospital and Professor in Medicine at the Northern Territory Clinical School at Flinders University. Professor Currie is also Head of the Tropical and Emerging Infectious Diseases Division of the Menzies School of Health Research at Charles Darwin University," said Dr Frank Beard, public health physician and representative of the Conference Organising Committee.

"Also featuring on day two will be Mr James Ward, who has is the current Program Head of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Program at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research based at the University of NSW," said Dr Beard.

"The biennial conference is being held by PHAA in association with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia and the Public Health Laboratory Network, with around 300 delegates due to attend this year's event," said Mr Moore.

What: PHAA Communicable Disease Control Conference
Where: Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton ACT
When: Tuesday 5 April 2011
Time: 9am – 5pm

For general comment on the conference:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia:

0417 249 731

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/CDC_Program2011.pdf .

Sponsors of the Communicable Disease Control Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Baxter; CSL Biotherapies; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur Pty Ltd; and Wyeth Vaccines – Australia.