

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2010

IMMUNISATION: ADVERSE EVENTS AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and overseas have come together for the 12th National Immunisation Conference in Adelaide. The three day conference continues today, with a particular focus on global and regional issues and adverse events following immunisation.

“Globalisation and the increased international mobility of populations presents obvious challenges for immunisation programs in both a global and regional context. The reported adverse reaction to this year’s influenza vaccine among the under 5 age group will also be a hot topic for discussion today,” said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Health Association of Australia.

Among the experts speaking on the second day of the conference will be: Associate Professor Peter Richmond from the University of WA School of Paediatrics and Child Health; Dr Kate Taylor from the Nossal Institute for Global Health; Dr Kristine Macartney, a paediatrician specialising in infectious diseases; Dr Ruth Lopert, Principal Medical Advisor with the Therapeutic Goods Administration; and eminent immunisation experts from both Thailand and New Zealand.

“Another particular feature of the second day’s program will be the Feery Oration at 5:15pm, which will be delivered this year by Professor Larry Pickering from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US,” said Professor Peter MacIntyre, Director of the Australian National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases.

“The biannual Immunisation Conferences are the peak public health conferences in Australia with the prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases through immunisation as their focus. Since their commencement in 1987, the Immunisation Conferences have grown in size and stature, with nearly 600 delegates due to attend this year’s event,” said Professor McIntyre.

What: 12th National Immunisation Conference
Where: Adelaide Convention Centre
When: Wednesday 18 August 2010
Time: 9am – 6pm

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/ImmunisationPROGRAM2010-1.pdf>

Sponsors of the 12th National Immunisation Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; CSL Biotherapies; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur Pty Ltd; Wyeth Vaccines – Australia; Baxter; and Novartis Vaccines.