

MEDIA ALERT

Experts Gather in Adelaide to Stop Spread of Preventable Diseases

Where: Adelaide Convention Centre

When: Tuesday 17 - Thursday 19 August 2010

Time: Commencing between 8:30am & 9am each day

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and eminent overseas visitors are coming together for the 12th National Immunisation Conference in Adelaide. This year's focus on *evidence and strategies for a new decade* has attracted a record number of participants, looking to showcase and debate new ideas. Headline issues to be discussed include pandemic influenza; global and regional challenges for immunisation; latest developments in new vaccines; and the new National Immunisation Strategy.

The conference will be formally opened by the Hon Mark Butler MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, at 8:30am on Tuesday 17 August 2010.

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 over 550 delegates due to attend this year's event.

“Among the hot topics to be discussed at the conference will be the reported adverse reaction to this year's influenza vaccine among the under 5 age group. Numerous experts will be discussing the implications of the situation as well as the way forward for vaccination programs both this year and in upcoming flu seasons,” said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Health Association of Australia.

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA): 0417 249 731

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.