

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON TUESDAY 17 AUGUST 2010

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA & NEW VACCINES HOT TOPICS AT CONFERENCE

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and overseas are coming together for the 12th National Immunisation Conference in Adelaide. The three day conference starts today, with a particular focus on pandemic influenza and the latest developments in new vaccines.

“The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is focussed on preventing health problems in communities and we have always had a strong commitment to immunisation as an appropriate way to stop the spread of preventable diseases. The conference will be opened at 8:30am this morning by the Hon Mark Butler MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health,” said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of PHAA.

Among the experts speaking on the opening day of the conference will be: Professor James Bishop AO, Australian Government Chief Medical Officer; Professor Elizabeth Miller, former Head of the UK Immunisation Department; Associate Professor Ross Andrews of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation; and Professor Peter MacIntyre, Director of the Australian National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases.

“Another particular feature on the first day’s program will be the debate at 5pm, which will consider the proposition ‘*That we are too soft on the anti-vaccination lobby*’. The topic is of particular relevance given the warnings from the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission about an anti-vaccination group and the growing profile that celebrity endorsements have provided to this lobby in recent times,” said Mr Moore.

“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.

“We are thrilled to host the 12th National Immunisation Conference which will attract leading authorities to our city to share their knowledge and to provide a platform for the discussion and debate of world authorities about challenges for immunisation.” Adelaide Convention Centre CEO, Alec Gilbert, said.

What: 12th National Immunisation Conference
Where: Adelaide Convention Centre
When: Tuesday 17 August 2010
Time: 8:30am – 5:45pm

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.