

## **1998 PHA Annual Conference**

### **Resolutions of the 30th Annual Conference of the Public Health Association of Australia, Hobart 1998**

*Resolutions passed at the final plenary of the 1998 Annual Conference of PHA*

#### **Calls for introduction of Australian eco-taxes**

The Conference of the Australian Public Health Association resolved that:

- Environmental degradation, the global warming that has already occurred, and greenhouse gas emissions are now impacting adversely on the health of human populations.
- Both of Australia's major political parties are ignoring a most serious health issue and have failed to include consideration of it in their tax packages.
- The Australian electorate deserves tax reform that will contribute to a sustainable future.

We call upon each of the political parties to include in their tax plans, a system of eco-taxes (eg carbon tax) of the kind that have been advocated by US Vice President Al Gore, and implemented with effect in a growing number of European countries.

We believe that eco-taxes will benefit both the short and long term health of Australians, and will be both understood and supported by the Australian electorate. We believe that most Australians are concerned at the need to constrain greenhouse emissions, which, if they continue at their current rate, will result in ecological changes profoundly damaging to human health.

#### **Uranium mining**

Conference delegates call upon PHA to reaffirm their policy on uranium and state publicly that:

- Uranium mining presents enormous risks both locally and internationally - but poses a unique problem for Indigenous peoples whose complete lifestyles, culture and spiritual beliefs, food and nutrition supplies and function as custodians of their land, is totally ignored and destroyed by mining companies supported by the government of this country.

We ask that PHA actively lobby all political parties in the lead-up to the Federal election and that they continue to agitate to ensure issues associated with uranium mining remain on the agenda.

This is of major importance in Aboriginal Health and the spiritual well-being of Indigenous people.

## **Workshop - Chemical exposure and human health: Levels of evidence, levels of risk**

Conference delegates call upon PHA to develop and implement a workshop in 1998/99 titled Chemical exposure and human health: Levels of evidence; levels of risk in collaboration with the Environmental Health Special Interest Group and other potential partners.

## **Remote Aboriginal health worker training**

Conference delegates recommend that:

1. The Commonwealth must take responsibility for streamlining and funding remote PHC training.
2. Training for remote Indigenous health workforce must be community and work-based.
3. Each remote region must determine its own mechanism for supporting community-based training eg through Remote Health Training Units in partnership with communities.
4. Funding for Indigenous health traineeships must be developed eg through cashing out CDEP payments, group training schemes, major employment strategies etc. DEETYA must develop and facilitate these avenues. Employers in the health and community services cannot wear the cost of educational neglect.
5. The Australian National Training Board must include representatives from the Indigenous community controlled sector and empower the Indigenous advisory group, (ATSIPAC) and ensure its members are representative.
6. Increased resources must be made available for higher health worker training.
7. The Commonwealth must investigate legal impediments affecting AHWs in the eight Australian legislatures including a review of registration options for AHWs.
8. The Department of Health and Family Services must recognise remote health service delivery is based on multi-disciplinary teams and provide incentive program funding accordingly.