

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PRESIDENT, NEW DIRECTIONS FOR PHAA

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has a new President and a new set of strategic directions following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its 40th Annual Conference in Adelaide. Professor Helen Keleher from Monash University was elected PHAA's new President, the AGM also endorsed a new Strategic Plan for the organisation and a series of new policies and resolutions on a broad range of public health issues.

"Professor Helen Keleher is a public health social scientist who is Head of the Department of Health Social Science, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. Her research interests are in primary and community health, the social determinants of health and inequity, building capacity for public health, population health and health promotion in health services/systems and policy, and women's health. Professor Keleher is a leader in the public health field and PHAA is very fortunate to have someone of her calibre as its incoming President," said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the PHAA.

"The AGM also saw the election of a new Vice President of organisational development, Dr Yvonne Luxford. Dr Luxford is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Palliative Care Australia and was previously the Manager of Policy and Advocacy for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

"In addition to the election of PHAA's new President and Vice President (Development), a new organisational Strategic Plan for 2011-2013 was adopted at the AGM, setting out the vision and goals of the organisation over the coming years. A series of resolutions for action and policy directions on a broad range of public health issues were also adopted at the AGM. In combination, the adoption of these measures will provide a strong foundation for the ongoing development of the organisation and a clear direction in terms of key advocacy messages for government in relation to public health.

"The incoming President, Board Members and National Office of PHAA would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing President, Professor Mike Daube, who has spear-headed significant organisational change and development during his two terms on the PHAA Board. Professor Daube has overseen a restructure of PHAA, as well as the establishment of core goals and directions for the future of the organisation. These measures paved the way for the large growth in PHAA membership over the past few years. Professor Daube will be continuing his association with PHAA as WA Branch President and Convenor of the PHAA Special Interest Group on Alcohol. We anticipate that Professor Keleher will be taking up where Professor Daube left off, championing the improvement of public health outcomes for all Australians," said Mr Moore.

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