

No more delays

National Preventive Health Agency

All parties are being urged to support crucial health legislation in a timely way in the Senate this week. The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) believes that this legislation is of paramount importance for the health of our community.

The Australian *National Preventive Health Agency Bill* is scheduled for debate on Thursday, after time for discussion ran out late last year.

PHAA CEO, Michael Moore, said, "This is vital legislation for anyone who is serious about keeping all Australians healthy and particularly the most vulnerable of our people".

Establishing the National Preventive Health Agency was a crucial recommendation as one of several strategies identified by the Preventative Health Task Force and implements recommendations of the Australian Health Ministers' Conference and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). Prevention is a key factor in dealing with our modern epidemics – obesity, tobacco and alcohol problems. The Government deserves credit for recognising the importance of prevention, and for committing significant funding even in difficult economic times."

"We cannot afford any further delays. The work of this Agency will help to prevent the premature deaths of literally hundreds of thousands of Australians."

It would be a tragedy for Australia if this great opportunity for prevention were allowed to slip. We urge all parties to put the health of the nation ahead of politics, and to support the Government's proposed legislation."

For further information/comment:

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