

12 September 2010

## **HEALTH MINISTER APPOINTMENT WELCOMED**

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has praised the re-appointment of Nicola Roxon as Federal Health Minister.

PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said, "Nicola Roxon is a strong and committed Minister driving a comprehensive reform agenda. She has a profound understanding of the Australia's health needs and the need for change if our system is to serve this country through the coming decades.

"She has been a champion for prevention, including the establishment of the National Preventative Health Taskforce, and a Bill to establish the Australian National Preventative Health Agency".

"Events of recent days have shown how virulent opposition to change can be from special interest groups like the tobacco industry, which is trying to bully the Government out of plain packaging. Nicola Roxon has shown that she can face down the tobacco and alcohol industries, over tobacco control and measures such as the alcopops tax."

"We are delighted that she has been reappointed, and look forward to further progress in areas including prevention, Indigenous health, and mental health."

PHAA CEO Michael Moore said, "Health is a massive and complex portfolio, with challenges ranging from funding for prevention to whole-of-government issues such as climate change. In welcoming Minister Roxon we also appreciate the appointment of Mark Butler to Ageing and Mental Health considering his outstanding performance as a Parliamentary Secretary in Health and we look forward to working with Catherine King in a similar capacity and Julie Collins with regard to Indigenous issues. Our previous experience indicates that this team will be able to meet these challenges".

We look forward to making the case for further action and working with them to achieve further progress."

ENDS

**For further information/comment:**

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