

MEDIA ALERT

Experts gather in Canberra to improve public health

Where: Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton ACT
When: Monday 28 – Wednesday 30 September 2009
Time: Commencing 8:30am each day

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Federal Minister for Health and Ageing will open the conference at 10.00 am on Monday 28 September 2009

A wide range of experts in public health are converging on Canberra next week for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) 39th Annual Conference. Public health policy makers, researchers, service delivery agencies and community groups working in the public health sphere will be among the groups represented at the *Making a Difference: Intervening to Improve Health Outcomes* Conference. The Speakers will address the gathering in Canberra to determine new ways to improve health and related social outcomes for Australians. The diverse range of attendees will be working together to deliver new insights and find innovative solutions to some long-standing challenges.

Major Speakers include:

- Professor Heather Buchan, a public health physician and epidemiologist from the UK
- Professor Simon Chapman, from University of Sydney on the future of tobacco control
- Professor Terry Dwyer, Director of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute;
- Professor Sandra Eades, Indigenous Maternal and Child Health Research at the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Melbourne
- Dr Sharon Friel, a social and nutritional epidemiologist at NCEPH;
- Dr Bobby Milstein who leads the Syndemics Prevention Network from the Centre of Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta USA
- Professor Rob Moodie, Professor of Global Health at the Nossal Institute and Chair of the Preventative Health Taskforce
- Professor Michael Smithson, Department of Psychology at ANU
- Dr David Whiteman, from the Queensland Institute of Medical Research specialising in cancer prevention and treatment.

"The PHAA's 39th Annual Conference focuses on interventions to improve health outcomes. It aims to showcase many of our recent successes and the intervention-oriented research that is currently underway, as well as inviting cautionary tales about past and looming failures. "It is vital that lessons learned from research can be translated into effective policy and practice that improve health outcomes and make a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of the community," said Michael Moore, PHAA's Chief Executive Officer.

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia

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