

MEDIA ALERT

Experts gather in Melbourne to prevent crime and improve health

Where: Hilton on the Park, 192 Wellington Parade, Melbourne

When: Monday 6 – Tuesday 7 April 2009

Time: Commencing 8:30am each day

A wide range of people with an interest in crime prevention and prisoner health are converging on Melbourne next week for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) Justice Health Conference. Justice health policy makers, researchers, ex-prisoners, prison workers, lawyers, employers, unions and community agencies working with prisoners and their families will be among the groups represented at the *Justice Health in Australia: Beyond the Convict Era* Conference.

The conference will be formally opened by Bob Cameron MP, Victorian Government Minister for Corrections, at 8:30am on Monday 6 April 2009.

Speakers from across Australia and abroad will address the gathering in Melbourne, which will bring together around 200 people from all walks of life to determine new ways to prevent crime and achieve better health and social outcomes for prisoners, their families and communities. The diverse range of attendees will be working together to deliver new insights and find innovative solutions to some long-standing challenges.

“The recent end of mandatory detention for asylum-seekers at the national level signals a definite end to the traditional ‘lock ‘em up’ approach. Across jurisdictions Australia is finally moving beyond the convict era and looking to address the causes of crime rather than just punishing people. After all, it’s not just prisoners and their families who want to reduce offending – it also helps the general 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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The Victorian Government Department of Justice is a partner to the event, which is also being supported by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and an education grant from GlaxoSmithKline.