



MEDIA ALERT

PUBLIC SEMINAR & FORUM: Prison Health is Public Health

Where: ACT Legislative Assembly - Reception Room,
Civic Square, London Circuit, CANBERRA

When: Wednesday 17 June 2009

Time: 12:30 – 1:30pm

The ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre, in association with the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), is hosting a lunchtime seminar and forum on *Hepatitis C, prisoners and our community* in Canberra, ahead of Drug Action Week.

The seminar will be opened by Mary Porter MLA, Deputy Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly. The program will include a presentation by Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PHAA, followed by a panel forum discussion lead by Mr Moore along with Annie Madden, Executive Officer of the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users' League (AIVL); Nicole Wiggins, Manager of the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA); Michael Levy, Medical Director of Corrections ACT; and John Van Den Dungen, Indigenous Project Officer with AIVL.

“It is important for policy makers and the community to understand that public health issues affecting prisoners also affect the general community. Most prisoners spend relatively short periods of time behind bars and then return to their families and communities. Rates of Hepatitis C among prisoners therefore impact on our ability to reduce the spread of Hepatitis C in the broader community,” explained Mr Moore.

“In particular, rates of injecting drug use among prisoners and the availability of clean injecting equipment need to be considered in the prison context. The seminar and forum will provide community members with an opportunity to learn more about these issues and ask questions of the panel on broader Hepatitis C prevention measures,” said Ms Robyn Davis, Executive Officer of the ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre.

For further information/comment:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia: 0417 249 731
Robyn Davis, Executive Officer, ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre Inc. (02) 6282 2611

*A flyer with additional information about the event can be found on the PHAA website at:
<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/adverts/FLYERSEMINAR2009.pdf>.*