

ALL PARTIES URGED TO SUPPORT NATIONAL PREVENTION AGENCY

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has urged all parties to support legislation now in the Senate to establish Australia's first National Preventive Health Agency.

PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said, "This is one of the most important measures by any government for many years to improve the health of the Australian community. It was a key recommendation of the 2020 Summit, the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and the National Preventative Health Taskforce. This is a landmark development that will do much to save lives, and to reduce our national toll from tobacco, alcohol and the rising tide of obesity. We cannot understand any moves to delay the Agency, given that it attracted cross-party support in the Lower House".

"We would be deeply concerned at any moves to delay the legislation and the establishment of the National Preventive Health Agency. While we recognise the importance of debate and refining the details of legislation, it will be a tragedy for the health of all Australians if the Agency is not established as intended on January 1.

The Agency is also a vital means of progressing the recommendations of the Prevention Taskforce."

We urge all parties to support the establishment of the National Preventive Health Agency at the earliest possible opportunity."

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