

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH AGENCY – MASSIVE STEP FORWARD FOR AUSTRALIA’S HEALTH

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has welcomed the introduction into Federal Parliament by Health Minister Nicola Roxon of a Bill to establish an Australian National Preventive Health Agency.

PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said “This is a massive step forward in improving the health and lives of all Australians. The establishment of a National Preventive Health Agency was a key recommendation of both the National Preventative Health Taskforce and the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission. We are delighted that the Government has moved so quickly to establish this Agency, with an initial budget of \$133 million over four years that will enable it to make real inroads into major national problems such as tobacco and obesity.”

“This measure means that prevention moves out of its Cinderella status. It is a recognition by governments that prevention works, and that it needs a major boost. Tobacco is still our largest preventable cause of death and disease; and if we simply halt and stabilise the rise in obesity we can prevent a massive 500,000 deaths by 2050 that would otherwise have been caused by obesity”.

“A National Prevention Agency will bring a much needed focus to prevention in Australia, with best-practise programs based on expert advice. Moves such as this will make Australia the international leader in promoting health and preventing disease.”

“We urge strong support from all parties for this vital legislation.”

For further information/comment:

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