

The Hon Christopher Pyne
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Health and Ageing
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Parliamentary Secretary,

National Youth Health Foundation

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is a forum for the promotion of health (of the public) through the specific discipline of public health which encompasses all determinants of health, not just those related to medical treatment. It is also a professional resource for public health personnel. The Association provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and information on public health and actively undertakes advocacy for public health policy, development, research and training.

The PHAA has a particular interest in mental health, both within the broader aims of the association and through a Mental Health Special Interest Group, and is delighted with your recent announcement of the imminent creation of a National Youth Mental Health Foundation. We believe that the prevention of mental health problems and early intervention where they occur is critical to the on-going health of Australia's youth, and over time, Australia's general population. We also strongly believe in the development of community awareness about mental health and mental illness.

The PHAA would be delighted to participate with the National Youth Mental Health Foundation as it determines its priorities and appropriate mechanisms to involve stakeholders in its agenda.

I have attached a copy of our Mental Health Policy Statements for your information.

Should it prove useful, we would be happy to discuss the PHAA's Mental Health Policy Statements and possible interactions with the National Youth Mental Health Foundation with you, your staff or Mr Ryan Stokes and can be contacted on (02) 62852373 or at plaut@phaa.net.au

Yours sincerely,

Pieta Laut
Executive Director
Susan Humphries
Convenor, Mental Health Special Interest Group

20.12.05