

20 September 2016

[www.phaa.net.au](http://www.phaa.net.au)

## Warren Snowdon tackling embedded racism

The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP shared his personal experience of witnessing racism as he presented some solutions to close the health gap. Mr Snowdon was delivering an impromptu speech at the Public Health Association of Australian (PHAA) 44<sup>th</sup> Annual and Chronic Disease Network (CDN) Conference 2016

The Shadow Minister attended the Conference yesterday and presented the Chronic Disease Network Recognition Awards. He was invited to give a few moments to share his views in a plenary session today.

Mr Snowdon (Twitter handle: [@manwiththemo](https://twitter.com/manwiththemo)) touched the attendees with his personal reflections generating a vigorous series of tweets that tell the story of his impact.

Some of the comments on twitter from individuals and organisations were as follows:

- [@manwiththemo](https://twitter.com/manwiththemo) says many of the Aboriginal people he calls family have passed away from preventable disease
- [#PHAACDN2016](https://twitter.com/PHAACDN2016) Hon Warren Snowdon "We need to acknowledge the primacy of women in preventing chronic disease"
- gender equality and primacy of women is the driving force of health policy. Need to talk to young women today. [@manwiththemo](https://twitter.com/manwiththemo)
- The best hope of improving the next generation is talking to the women of this generation-the mums. Hon Warren Snowdon [#PHAACDN2016](https://twitter.com/PHAACDN2016)
- Tackling racism is empty rhetoric, Warren Snowdon reflects at [#PHAACDN2016](https://twitter.com/PHAACDN2016). Prioritise this, gender inequity, early yrs for better health
- We can not ignore racism and the role culture plays in Aboriginal health outcomes says [@manwiththemo](https://twitter.com/manwiththemo) [#PHAACDN2016](https://twitter.com/PHAACDN2016)
- Warren Snowdon: Institutionalised racism must be addressed and policy makers must be sincere. [#PHAACDN2016](https://twitter.com/PHAACDN2016)

Mr Snowdon talked of embedding "cultural competency" in training of medical and other health professionals as one of the solutions.

Finally, he summed up the way other Australians might think of racism:

- [@manwiththemo](https://twitter.com/manwiththemo) has seen racism against Aboriginal ppl & can't imagine what it's like to "live in the skin" an Aboriginal person [#PHAACDN2016](https://twitter.com/PHAACDN2016)

In a nutshell – a powerful contribution from a man who has been at the helm of health policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

**For further information/comment:**

Sophie Brown PHAA (Michael Moore comment)

0421 749 608