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Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

Stop the plebiscite and ensure dignity for all this World Mental Health Day

This World Mental Health Day, it is vital we continue to advocate for no plebiscite to keep our community safe to ensure good mental health for all said Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) CEO Michael Moore.

[World Mental Health Day](#) is held each year on the 10 October to raise awareness of mental health globally and advocate for ongoing efforts to improve the mental health of all people. The theme for this year's World Mental Health Day is '[Dignity in mental health: psychological and mental health first aid for all](#)'.

"There is a significant risk that individual's mental health will be impacted by the plebiscite and surrounding debate," said Mr Moore also President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

This year the PHAA is calling on the Australian government to consider the mental health and wellbeing of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities and pass same sex marriage laws without the potentially damaging plebiscite.

As part of the PHAA annual conference in September a resolution was passed without dissent opposing the Australian plebiscite on same sex marriage. Over 300 public health professionals called for the government to pass same sex marriage laws without a costly and damaging plebiscite and funnel the funds into areas that will benefit the community such as preventative health or education.

A recent report by ACON highlighted the growing evidence relating to the impact of marriage equality and marriage denial on same sex couples and the role of health organisations in supporting marriage equality as a public health strategy.

"World Mental Health Day is a reminder of the Governments' duty to protect the mental health and wellbeing of the Australian population and actively contribute to this year's theme of dignity in mental health," concluded Mr Moore.

To learn more about World Mental Health Day visit [here](#). To view the full list of PHAA conference resolutions click [here](#)

For further information/comment:

Sophie Brown (Michael Moore comment)
communications@phaa.net.au
www.phaa.net.au

0421 749 608