



17th National Immunisation Conference 2020

Statement from the Public Health Association of Australia

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation the 17th National Immunisation Conference 2020 and the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) have made the decision to postpone the conference originally planned in Perth for Tuesday 23 to Thursday 25 June 2020, until 2021 in Perth, new dates to be advised.

We have maintained regular contact with Australian public health authorities to ascertain the best advice about the risk to participants and the wider spread of COVID-19 associated with holding the Conference. With the evolving situation around large gatherings from Thursday 12 to Wednesday 18 March, we have been advised that due to the escalating situation with the virus, the safest option is to postpone the conference. Travel restrictions implemented by various countries and organisations such as universities and Health departments have also impacted attendance by speakers, delegates, exhibitors and sponsors, thus reducing the viability of a successful event in 2020.

Key changes that have occurred in the last two weeks that has led to this decision are

- WHO declaring COVID – 19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020.
- Large employers such as Departments of Health and universities withdrawing permission for staff to attend conferences and mass gatherings.
- As of Thursday 12 March, non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 500 people have been banned by the Federal Government
- Many health focused conferences scheduled in March, April and May being cancelled, in part driven by concerns over threats to continuity of service in circumstances where key health staff are required to undergo isolation if a single delegate is suspected of being a COVID-19 carrier.
- As of Wednesday 18 March, non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people have been banned by the Federal Government

The PHAA and the conference advisory committee for the 17th National Immunisation Conference would like to proceed with the program content as currently planned. Further information about new dates will be available soon. We will then work with plenary and concurrent session speakers regarding their availability to present at the conference in 2021.

We appreciate everyone's time, support and engagement in creating a high calibre program and extra satellite activities and hope all sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and delegates will join us in 2021.



We understand you will have questions. Our intention is to be in touch with you again in the near future with as much information as we can provide. We thank you for your understanding and support as we work through these many complex issues.

Yours sincerely,



Terry Slevin
CEO: Public Health Association of Australia



Professor Kristine Macartney
Chair, Conference Advisory Committee

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