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Victorian Healthcare Association

For immediate release

Victoria's peak public health body will challenge the narrow biomedical focus of the nation's healthcare system at its annual conference in Melbourne this week.

People Centred Healthcare Systems is the theme of the Victorian Healthcare Association's (VHA) annual conference at the Hilton on the Park on Thursday and Friday.

The event will bring together hundreds of Victorian delegates to discuss healthcare reform at a time when the Federal Government is considering major healthcare reform.

The VHA's chief executive, Trevor Carr, said the event will give hundreds of Victorian delegates access to a range of nationally and internationally regarded health policy experts.

Keynote speakers will outline their reasons for why the public healthcare system should be more people focused, with an emphasis on reforming the funding, legal, community engagement, clinical governance and information technology systems that underpin healthcare delivery.

The event will also showcase the **VHA's Annual Awards** that will reward entrants who demonstrate innovative people centred approaches to healthcare.

The two main awards - sponsored by human resources consultancy Dakin Mayers - are in the categories of Population Health Approaches and Workforce Development.

The conference will be opened by Victorian Health Minister Daniel Andrews and the Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, will close the event.

Conference speakers include:

- Monash Medical Centre oncologist Dr Ranjana Srivastava, a Fulbright Scholar with an interest in communication and medical ethics
- The University of Manchester's, Dr Stephen Campbell, who will analyse funding reform and quality indicators in the field of primary healthcare
- Melbourne University Law School Professor, David Studdert, on the legal systems underpinning healthcare systems
- The Capire Group's, Dr Iain Butterworth, an expert on the healthy cities movement
- Centre for Policy Development's John Menadue AO will speak about reforms to Medicare
- DLA Phillips Fox's Dr Heather Wellington on the importance of sound clinical governance in healthcare
- The National E-Health Transition Authority head of strategy and E-Health architecture Andrew Howard

The Victorian Healthcare Association is the major peak body representing the public healthcare sector in Victoria. Our members include public hospitals, rural and regional health services, community health services and aged care facilities. Established since 1938, the VHA promotes improvement of health outcomes for all Victorians from the perspective of its members.

For further information and
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