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Victorian Healthcare Association

For immediate release

Governance of health services under the spotlight in Melbourne

Victoria's peak body for public health services will turn the spotlight on healthcare governance this week at a two-day Governance & Service Quality conference in Melbourne.

The event at Melbourne's Hilton on the Park on Wednesday and Thursday will bring together hundreds of Victorian delegates from the health and community services sectors to participate in governance presentations and workshops.

Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) chief executive, Trevor Carr said the event is timely as it follows the recent Council of Australian Governments (COAG) national health agreement that will usher in Local Hospital Networks and Primary Health Care Organisations, run by boards.

"Victorian health services are governed already by local boards and, consequently, there is a wealth of knowledge that the VHA and its members can share with the other states and territories," Mr Carr said.

"But that is no excuse for Victoria to remain static in this area. This event is a first in the field of governance. It brings together eminent speakers from diverse sectors including the acute, aged care, primary healthcare and non-health sectors to discuss how organisations can improve their governance structures for the benefit of consumers."

Among the keynote speakers are:

- **Health Services Commissioner, Beth Wilson** who will outline **The Consumer's Role in Health Service Quality**
- **Victorian Department of Health secretary, Fran Thorn** who will canvass **Contemporary Issues in Governance**
- **National Australia Bank's Rob Anderson** who will outline what the health sector can learn from the finance sector in terms of governance and service quality
- **Victorian Healthcare Association chief executive, Trevor Carr** who will outline some major new business developments in the field of healthcare governance

The event will also present the **inaugural VHA Governance Award** to raise awareness of the need to strengthen governance systems and the processes that safeguard the provision of quality health services.

The VHA 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.

- For a copy of the conference program go to www.vha.org.au. To pre-arrange a media interview please call the VHA's Media and Communication Officer, Kelly Meredith, on (0418) 534 511

For further information and interviews

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