

Strategic Inter-Governmental forum on Physical Activity and Health (SIGPAH)

Communique from the teleconference held on 9 November, 1999

The Strategic Inter-Governmental forum on Physical Activity and Health (SIGPAH) is the national public health coordinating body of physical activity and health in Australia. The Forum aims to increase the proportion of the Australian population who participate in regular moderate-intensity physical activity to improve health, with the support of the National Public Health Partnership, and through collaboration with other sectors.

Key outcomes of the meeting

- **Developing an Active Australia II**

SIGPAH is currently in the process of developing a Work Plan for the next three years in conjunction with the Active Australia Alliance. The plan lists four strategic themes comprising several key initiatives, identified as priorities by SIGPAH members at their August meeting. The key strategic themes are Education, Evidence, Environments and Infrastructure. It is proposed that the document will be published as a sequel to 'Developing an Active Australia', the health sector response to Active Australia.

- **Monitoring Evaluation & Research Project**

This project aims to establish a system to coordinate and disseminate information on physical activity and health. The purpose is to provide a systematic, evidence-based and coherent approach to assist priority setting for physical activity and health initiatives. Tender documentation for the National Physical Activity Monitoring, Research and Evaluation project is close to finalisation, with tenders expected to go out in December 1999.

- **National Physical Activity Guidelines dissemination**

The Commonwealth proposes to hold a workshop and/or contract an external organisation to further develop a dissemination strategy for the National Physical Activity Guidelines, as identified in the SIGPAH Work Plan.

- **General Practice Working Party**

The recently established GP Working Party are considering the invitation of expert non-SIGPAH members to assist with their work. Dr Fiona Bull is already contributing to the work of the group while other invitations are being considered. The group expects to teleconference soon to confirm terms of reference and priorities.

- **Active Australia 1999 Population Survey**

This follow-up to the survey conducted in 1997, began on November 10 1999 with fieldwork due for completion by the second week of December. Publication of results is anticipated in June 2000.

For further information about SIGPAH, additional information about this meeting or contact details for SIGPAH members, please contact Ms Penny Graham, of the SIGPAH Secretariat, on (02) 6289 7939.