



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

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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.

Communique from the Teleconference held on Thursday 30 March 2000

Developing an Active Australia: a framework for action for physical activity and health - Work Plan for 2000 – 2003: a working document of the Strategic Inter-Governmental forum on Physical Activity and Health

A revised SIGPAH three year work plan is currently being developed in consultation with the Active Australia Alliance and the Strategic Inter-Governmental Nutrition Alliance (SIGNAL). This Work Plan is intended to supplement and extend the Key Strategies section in *Developing an Active Australia* and advance the work already underway by the Commonwealth, States and Territories.

The National Physical Activity Guidelines

In June 1997 the then Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services appointed consultants to develop the National Physical Activity Guidelines. These were launched in May 1999 and distributed, initially with an emphasis on networks/organisations that have an interest in promoting or supporting physical activity. Continuing distribution of the guidelines is a priority for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (CDHAC) for the coming financial year. The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and the CDHAC will collaborate in disseminating the guidelines more widely.

Transport and Health

Dr Chloe Mason is providing consultancy services to the CDHAC to develop a contextual analysis and catalogue of programs and projects on transport, health and environmental issues and an options paper for the promotion of health through transport-oriented programs. Her draft report is expected to be completed in June/July 2000.

The General Practitioners Working group

Dr Fiona Bull will stand down as interim Chair of the GP Working Group and duly elected Mr Philip Vita from the NSW Department of Health will take on the position effective from June 2000. The aim of the Working Group is "to make recommendations to the Strategic Inter-Governmental forum on Physical Activity and Health (SIGPAH) to improve the co-ordination and strategic development of initiatives which encourage the promotion of physical activity in the general practice setting."

National Public Health Partnership Planning and Practice Framework Pilot for Physical Activity

The Framework is a process for analysing and acting on public health issues and evaluating the results. SIGPAH was invited to pilot the framework methodology on a physical activity priority. SIGPAH has accepted the framework and agreed that physical activity and transport would be ideal issues to address. Members are in the process of developing SIGPAH's response to this opportunity.

- A forum for national leadership in physical activity and health in Australia -