

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXPERTS JOIN VICHEALTH TO ADDRESS GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES

Health promotion leaders from across the Asia Pacific are visiting Melbourne this week to share expertise and the latest research developments to jointly tackle a number of global health promotion issues.

The delegation is here for the 16th Annual International Network of Health Promotion Foundations (INHPF) General Meeting, which is being hosted by VicHealth.

The Hon. Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria and VicHealth Patron-in-Chief, will officially welcome the INHPF delegation at Government House tomorrow (1 December).

“As the world’s first health promotion foundation, VicHealth has been at the forefront of health promotion at home and on the world stage for nearly 30 years. The organisation has generated a wealth of expertise in health promotion and illness prevention over that period and has changed the lives of thousands of Victorians,” the Governor said.

Founded in 1999, the INHPF is a collaboration between a growing number of health promotion foundations established across the world. Currently seven foundations and 16 affiliated institutions maintain a relationship with the network.

Meeting participants come from Fiji, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Thailand and Tonga. Attendees also include representatives from international organisations/networks such as the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), the United Nations Development Program, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO Division of Health Sector Development Director, Dr Vivian Lin, said INHPF has been an important partner for the organisation for more than 10 years.

“The members of INHPF have been models and mentors for the participants in the Health Promotion Leadership Program (ProLead) in offering a vision of what sustainable health promotion financing and infrastructure could look like. They continue to provide inspiration on the direction for health promotion work across countries in the region” Dr Lin said.

A highlight of the INHPF General Meeting will be a forum hosted by VicHealth in partnership with The University of Melbourne on Friday (2 December).

The ‘Destination Wellbeing: Policy, Practice and Research’ Forum will provide Australian and global health promotion leaders an opportunity to look to the future and discuss challenges and opportunities for population wellbeing in Australia and the wider world.

The discussion will focus on six global ‘megatrends’ (megatrends are described by CSIRO as a significant shift in environmental, economic and social conditions that will play out over the coming decades).

Forum attendees will consider how these megatrends will inform action and maximise the contribution of health promotion to the achievement of the United Nations’ global Sustainable Development Goals, which will in turn inform the broader Sustainable Development Agenda.

VicHealth CEO and current Chair of the INHPF Jerril Rechter said: “As a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Leadership in Health Promotion, VicHealth is particularly honoured to be hosting this prestigious event. There’s potential to affect great change across health promotion initiatives worldwide, starting right here in Melbourne, the home of VicHealth – Australia’s first health promotion foundation.”

For enquiries, please contact INHPF2016@vichealth.vic.gov.au

Media Contact

Cimara Doutré, Senior Media Advisor P 03 9667 1319 M 0435 761 732 E cdoutr@vichealth.vic.gov.au