

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### New VicHealth board members announced

VicHealth Chair Professor John Catford has today announced the appointment of three VicHealth board members.

Arts Access Victoria Executive Director Veronica Pardo and Victorian AIDS Council CEO Simon Ruth have joined the VicHealth Board, while public health expert Professor Margaret Hamilton's term has been renewed.

Professor Catford said the new board members would bring their own energy and insights and make a great contribution to the organisation.

"Each of the new board appointments bring their own knowledge and experience which together, puts VicHealth in good stead for the future," Prof. Catford said.

"VicHealth wants to see one million more Victorians with better health and wellbeing by 2023 and will work hard throughout the next seven years to deliver on our Action Agenda for Health Promotion in the areas of promoting healthy eating, encouraging regular physical activity, preventing tobacco use, preventing harm from alcohol and improving mental wellbeing.

"The contribution of these new board members, along with the existing ones, will help ensure VicHealth continues to deliver high quality health promotion initiatives over the coming years."

Veronica Pardo is the Executive Director of Arts Access Victoria, the state's leading arts and disability organisation. In this role, Veronica has led an ambitious agenda of social and artistic transformation for people with a disability and the communities in which they live. With a passion for social justice and equity, Veronica has spearheaded campaigns relating to the inclusion of people with a disability in arts and culture, as audiences and cultural innovators.

Simon Ruth is CEO of the Victorian AIDS Council. He has more than 20 years' experience in the fields of Aids and HIV awareness, advocacy and treatment, alcohol, drug treatment and Indigenous services, youth work and community development. He is also a Board Member of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association and Vice President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.

Professor Margaret Hamilton has over 45 years' experience in the public health field, specialising in alcohol and drugs including clinical work, education and research. She has a background in social work and public health and was the Founding Director of Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre in Victoria and Chair of the Multiple and Complex Needs Panel in Victoria.

**For more information on VicHealth's Board visit: [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/about/who-we-are/board](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/about/who-we-are/board)**

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