

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 8 October 2024

Retiring CMO Professor Paul Kelly made invaluable contribution to healthcare system

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly, who announced his retirement from the Australian public service today, has made an invaluable contribution to Australia's healthcare system, including helping to steer the country through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Australian Medical Association President Dr Danielle McMullen, said Professor Kelly stepped into the role of CMO in the midst of the incredibly challenging Covid-19 pandemic, helping the nation successfully navigate the public health response.

"Professor Kelly stepped up providing his expertise during the pandemic, helping not just the medical profession, but all Australians to navigate their way through an incredibly difficult time," Dr McMullen said.

"It has been a pleasure for everyone at the AMA to work with Professor Kelly, even on the many thorny policy issues we have discussed. Professor Kelly has always been collaborative and constructive."

As the interim head of the Australian Centre for Disease Control, Professor Kelly has been instrumental in laying the foundations for a future CDC to help the country deal with future epidemics and pandemics.

"We need to get on with the work the Professor Kelly has started to ensure we have a properly resourced and functional CDC for future pandemics," Dr McMullen said.

"On behalf of all doctors in Australia I want to thank Professor Kelly for his extensive service and commitment to making our healthcare system a better one for all Australians.

"Australia's health policy, in times of crisis and in times of strain, relies upon accurate, timely and clear medical advice to inform our public policy makers and political leaders. We thank Professor Kelly for working with the many doctors in the profession over his time in the public service to deliver advice that has helped shape the system for the better."

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