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## PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIRES LONG-TERM INVESTMENT

AMA Queensland President Dr Shaun Rudd has called for a public health plan with a shelf life that won't expire after the typical three year electoral cycle. Dr Rudd said the Federal Budget's lack of commitment to preventative and public health underpinned the need for comprehensive measures at the state level.

In its State Budget Submission released today, AMA Queensland urged government to fund a public health plan for Queensland, developed in consultation with health organisations, advocacy groups, local government, consumer organisations and media representatives. The plan would work towards targets such as Closing the Gap, stemming the obesity epidemic and changing the state's drinking culture.

"In order to improve public health across Queensland, stakeholder groups need to work with government to create a shared vision," Dr Rudd said.

"Queensland is facing a number of public health challenges including high rates of obesity, smoking and alcohol abuse. The only way we are going to see a tangible improvement in these areas is through a consultative process that includes community engagement and education as well as policy."

Dr Rudd said in order for the public health plan to succeed, it needed support from both the government and the opposition.

"We all share a goal of a healthier Queensland but sometimes disagree on how to achieve that. With bipartisan support and community input, this plan will be able to serve as a long-term blueprint for health regardless of who is in government," he said.

In addition to the public health plan, AMA Queensland has called for:

- Allocating resources towards end-of-life care
- Unifying the health system through improved electronic records and ICT
- Reprioritising care and the creation of a formalised medical home
- Commitment to medical workforce training to ensure Queenslanders have the health support they deserve.

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