

**Australian Medical Association Limited**  
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## **MEDIA ALERT – DIARY NOTE**

**2017 AMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE - #amanatcon**  
**Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, 26-28 May 2017**

### **PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM TURNBULL HEADS LINE-UP OF LEADING POLITICAL AND HEALTH SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS AT AMA CONFERENCE**

The 2017 AMA National Conference at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, from 26-28 May, will feature an impressive line-up of influential political and health leaders, speakers and panellists, led by Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

The high priority of health policy in the current political debate is underlined by the attendance also of Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten; Health Minister, Greg Hunt; Minister for Indigenous Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt AM; Shadow Health Minister, Catherine King; and Greens Leader, Senator Richard Di Natale, at the AMA’s annual premier event.

The Conference will feature a high-level panel discussion of the Big Health Issues of 2017, moderated by Paul Bongiorno AM; induction of new AMA Fellows; the Leadership Development Dinner; Indigenous Medical Scholarship; Gala Dinner; and delegate Soapbox.

Policy sessions cover Health Care in Danger, Doctors’ Health and Wellbeing, Threats Beyond Borders, Improving Australia’s Organ Donation Rate, and Tackling Obesity.

**The Prime Minister will address the Conference at 11.30am on Saturday 27 May.**

Highlights of the Conference include:

**Friday 26 May 2017**

- 10.10am Welcome to Country
- 10.30am President’s Welcome and President’s Statement  
AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon
- 10.50am Health Minister, The Hon Greg Hunt MP
- 11.15am Opposition Leader, The Hon Bill Shorten MP
- 11.40am Shadow Health Minister, The Hon Catherine King MP
- 12.05pm Greens Leader, Senator Richard Di Natale
- 12.30pm Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) MDA National Prize for Excellence in Medical Research
- AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship

**Friday 26 May (continued):**

- 2.20pm      **POLICY SESSION: *Health Policy: The Big Issues in 2017***  
Moderator:    **Paul Bongiorno AM**, *The Saturday Paper, Network Ten*  
Panel:         **The Hon Ken Wyatt AM**, Minister for Indigenous Health and  
                    Minister for Aged Care  
                    **Dr Dwayne Crombie**, Managing Director, Bupa Private Health  
                    Insurance  
                    **Dr Liz Marles**, Sydney GP and former RACGP President  
                    **Adjunct Professor Toby Hall**, Group CEO, St Vincent's Health  
                    Australia  
                    **AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon**
- 4.20pm      Presentation of inductees to the AMA Roll of Fellows
- 5.30pm      **President's Welcome Reception** – Sofitel Melbourne on Collins
- AMA National Tobacco Scoreboard Achievement Award for best tobacco control actions by a State or Territory government
- AMA Dirty Ashtray Award for worst tobacco control actions by a State or Territory government
- AMA Award for best public health program from a State or Territory government
- AMA Media Awards for best lobbying, public health advocacy, publication, and website by a State or Territory AMA
- AMA Woman in Medicine Award
- AMA Women's Health Award
- AMA Excellence in Healthcare Award
- 7.30pm      **Leadership Development Dinner** – Eureka 89, Eureka Tower, Southbank  
Guest Speaker: **Dr Bronwyn King**, Radiation Oncologist and CEO Tobacco Free Portfolios
- AMA Doctor in Training of the Year Award

**Saturday 27 May:**

- 9.05am      **POLICY SESSION: *Health Care in Danger***  
 Chair:        **AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon**  
 Presenter:    **Ms Natalya Wells**, Policy and Political Affairs Officer,  
    International Committee of the Red Cross
- The Health Care in Danger project aims to address the issue of violence against patients, healthcare workers, facilities, and vehicles, and ensure safe access and delivery of health care in armed conflict and other emergencies.
- 10.10am     **POLICY SESSION: *Doctors' Health and Wellbeing***  
 Chair:        **Dr John Zorbas**, Chair, AMA Council of Doctors in Training  
 Panel:        **Dr Kairi Kõlves**, Principal Research Fellow, Australian Institute  
    for Suicide Research and Prevention, Griffith University  
    **Dr Janette Randall**, Chair, Board of Directors, Doctors Health  
    Services Pty Ltd (DrHS)  
    **Ms Fiona Shand**, Research Fellow, Black Dog Institute  
    Lifespan strategy  
    **Dr Bav Manoharan**, AMAQ Resilience on the Run Program,  
    **Dr Anjali Dhulia**, Director Medical Services, Monash Health  
    **Ms Marie Jepson**, Executive Director, The Tristan Jepson  
    Memorial Foundation
- 11.30am\*\*\***                                    **Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull**
- 11.55am                                    Address by AMSA President, Rob Thomas
- 1.25pm        **POLICY SESSION: *Threats Beyond Borders***  
 Moderator:    **Ms Julie McCrossin** - journalist, facilitator, and trainer  
 Panel:        **Professor Bart Currie**, Infectious Diseases Physician,  
    Royal Darwin Hospital & Menzies School of Health Research  
    **Ms Sophie Scott**, Medical Reporter, ABC  
    **Professor Cheryl Jones**, President, Australasian Society of  
    Infectious Diseases  
    **Dr Anthony Hobbs**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Federal  
    Department of Health
- 3.25pm        **POLICY SESSION: *Improving Australia's Organ Donation Rate - Ethical  
 and Practical Issues***  
 Chair:        **Professor Geoff Dobb**, Head of Intensive Care, Royal Perth  
    Hospital  
 Panel:        **The Hon Ken Wyatt AM**, Minister for Indigenous Health and  
    Minister for Aged Care  
    **Mr Allan Turner**, co-founder, Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation  
    **Professor Wendy Rogers**, Professor of Clinical Ethics,  
    Department of Clinical Medicine and the Philosophy  
    Department, Macquarie University  
    **Dr Helen Opdam**, National Medical Director, Australian Organ  
    and Tissue Authority  
    **Mr Jason Ryan**, Chairman, Transplant Australia

**Saturday 27 May (continued)**

7.30pm Gala Dinner – Presentation of AMA President’s Award and AMA Gold Medal

**Sunday 28 May:**

9.00am **POLICY SESSION: *Tackling Obesity***

Chair: **Professor Brad Frankum**, AMA NSW President

Panel: **Dr Tony Bartone**, AMA Vice President

**Ms Jane Flemming**, Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games athlete, Director – *Live Life Get Active*

**Professor Stephen Duckett**, Health Program Director, Grattan Institute

**Mr Ahmad Aly**, President, Obesity Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand (OSSANZ)

**Dr Geoffrey Annison**, Deputy Chief Executive and Director – Health, Nutrition, and Scientific Affairs, Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC)

**Professor Steve Allender**, School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University

\*\*Most policy sessions will be live streamed on the AMA website at <https://ama.com.au/>

\*\*Media are welcome to attend the Conference and Gala Dinner. There will be a media work room at the Sofitel on Collins, and a room for media conferences and interviews.

Please advise Meredith Horne at [mhorne@ama.com.au](mailto:mhorne@ama.com.au) or on 02 6270 5464 if you will be attending the Conference, Gala Dinner, and Welcome Reception.

Journalists and crews attending the Conference to interview the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, Minister Hunt, Minister Wyatt, Senator Di Natale, or Shadow Minister King should coordinate with Maria Hawthorne at [mhawthorne@ama.com.au](mailto:mhawthorne@ama.com.au) or on 0427 209 753, and Odette Visser at [ovisser@ama.com.au](mailto:ovisser@ama.com.au) or on 0407 726 905.

\*\*The Twitter hashtag for the Conference is **#amanatcon**

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1 May 2017

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