



CHPA

Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance

Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability
Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Commonwealth Dental Association
Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group
Commonwealth Medical Association
Commonwealth Nurses Federation
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

MEDIA RELEASE

9 March 2009

Commonwealth health professional associations unite

In an historic move, a number of Commonwealth health professional associations announced today they were forming an Alliance.

"We believe that a Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance (CHPA) will have a greater impact in raising awareness of some of the significant health issues for people in Commonwealth countries", said Anton Kerr, from the Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group.

"We are not meeting targets in reducing maternal and infant mortality; HIV, AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are still not under control in many countries; lifestyle diseases such as cardiac disease and diabetes which can largely be prevented are costing health systems millions of dollars each year; too many children are dying from malnutrition; and we have emerging issues such as the health effects of climate change."

"Additionally, we have a world wide shortage of health professionals and unless we start seriously recruiting more people into the health workforce and improving conditions so they are retained, the health problems facing the people of Commonwealth countries will only get worse."

Ulrike Matthesius from the Commonwealth Dental Association said: "Today, 9 March, is Commonwealth Day. It is 60 years since the new Commonwealth was formed and an appropriate day for Commonwealth health professional associations to form a new Alliance."

The CHPA is already actively preparing for the Commonwealth health ministers' meeting on 17 May and conducting a survey of health professionals in the fifty three Commonwealth countries on climate change and health which will be presented to the health ministers.

"We plan to have an impact and make a difference", Jill Iliffe from the Commonwealth Nurses Federation said.

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