



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS
OF HEALTH ALLIANCE

19 February 2014

MEDIA ALERT

Impact of racism & culture on health outcomes

Around 70 people from the health and community sectors are coming together in Melbourne tomorrow for a public forum to discuss the impact of racism and culture on health outcomes in Australia. The forum on *Racism and Culture as Social Determinants* is being held by the national Social Determinants of Health Alliance (SDOHA).

“Given recent public debate on the treatment of asylum seekers and efforts to ‘Close the Gap’ in health and social outcomes for Indigenous Australians, we think it’s time for governments to acknowledge and address the impact of factors such as racism and culture on health outcomes for particular population groups,” said Martin Laverty, Chair of SDOHA.

“Evidence shows that people who are marginalised and disadvantaged suffer a disproportionate burden in terms of negative health and social outcomes. The role that racism and culture play in this context is significant. Cultural factors also impact on health outcomes for a diverse range of population groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Australians.

“In terms of appropriate responses, the evidence-based recommendations from the World Health Organisation's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health Report have reaped benefits around the world, but we have yet to see Australian governments commit to their implementation,” said Mr Laverty.

Speakers at the forum include:

- Professor Dennis McDermott (Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University)
- Associate Professor Yin Paradies (Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University)
- Dr Barri Phatarfod (Doctors for Refugees)
- Professor Andrew Markus (School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University)
- Liam Leonard (Director, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria)
- Katherine Thurber (Doctoral Candidate, Australian National University)

What: Public Forum on Impact of Racism & Culture on Health

Where: Koorie Heritage Trust, 295 King Street, Melbourne

When: Thursday 20 February 2014

Time: 10am – 12:30pm

SDOHA is a collaboration of like-minded organisations from the areas of health, social services and public policy established to work with governments to reduce health inequities in Australia. The Alliance currently has over 60 organisational members.

For further information, contact with speakers or interviews with SDOHA Chair Martin Laverty:

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Speaker for media comment/interviews:

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