



VicHealth

The economic benefits of community-based prevention

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation



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You are invited to attend an afternoon forum to be held in the **VicHealth Boardroom (15-31 Pelham Street Carlton)** from 12noon to 4pm on **Thursday April 23rd**. A light lunch will precede the forum addressing the topic of "**the economic benefits of community-based prevention**".

FORUM TOPIC AND PURPOSE

Professor Richard F Catalano - The economic benefit of community prevention. The effectiveness of the Communities That Care model.

Professor John W Toumbourou - A national trial of the Communities That Care model in Australia. A proposal to evaluate the economic benefits of community prevention.

The purpose of the forum is to consider a proposal by Professor Toumbourou for a task-group to develop over four years a series of three reports examining "the economic benefits of community-based prevention". The task group proposed may include representatives from VicHealth, State government representatives from Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland, the philanthropic sector and Communities That Care Ltd. An initial report would examine evidence that community programs and policies (e.g., community mobilisation to reduce alcohol problems, school organisation programs, parent education, physical activity interventions) can decrease costs in the child, adolescent and young adult population in areas such as health costs (alcohol-related hospital admissions, injury) and policing costs (e.g., property damage, offence investigation). The second report would look at policy mechanisms to encourage and support community prevention activities and state policy variation. A final report (in 3-4 years) would evaluate the economic benefit of a planned national trial of the Communities That Care prevention planning model in Australia.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

Note attendance is limited and strictly by invitation.

Please RSVP by Monday 20th April to
Jennifer Nazareth <Jennifer.Nazareth@rch.org.au>
Phone: 9345 5312

SPEAKERS

Professor Richard F Catalano, PhD, has made internationally recognised contributions to the fields of criminology, crime prevention, prevention science and positive youth development. He is the Bartley Dobb Professor for the Study and Prevention of Violence in the School of Social Work and the Director of the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. His work has focused on discovering risk and protective factors for positive and problem behaviour, designing and evaluating programs to address these factors, using this knowledge on aetiology and efficacy to understand and improve the prevention services system in states and communities. He is the chair of the Washington State Epidemiological Workgroup, and a senior advisor to the Active Living Research group. He has served as chair the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Free To Grow Evaluation Advisory Panel. He has published over 200 articles and book chapters. His work has been recognized by practitioners (1996 National Prevention Network's Award of Excellence); criminologists (2007 August Vollmer Award from the American Society of Criminology, 2003 Paul Tappan Award from the Western Society of Criminology and Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminology); and prevention scientists (2001 Prevention Science Award from the Society for Prevention Research). In this presentation he will outline his experience as the co-developer of the community prevention approach, "Communities That Care." And present information from recent evaluation trials.

Professor John Winston Toumbourou, PhD, is a Senior VicHealth Research Fellow. He is the Chair in Health Psychology at Deakin University and a Senior Research Fellow within the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at the Centre for Adolescent Health (Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne). John is a founding signatory and has served as Chair of the College of Health Psychologists within the Australian Psychological Society. His interests include evaluation, drug abuse prevention and treatment, and the role of community, family and peer groups in adolescent health promotion. He has published over 200 articles and 60 referred journal papers. He is nationally and internationally recognised for his contribution to the prevention of harmful adolescent substance use. In 2008 his research was cited by the National Health and Medical Research Council in their decision to amend Australian adolescent alcohol-use guidelines. In 2007 he was selected by the world's leading medical journal "Lancet" to head a team reporting on strategies to reduce harmful adolescent substance use. In 2006 he received the award for International Collaborative Research from the Society for Prevention Research, the major society for health promotion and prevention researchers in the United States. In this presentation he will discuss his experience assisting the implementation and evaluation of an Australian trial of the Communities That Care prevention planning approach.