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Dear Professor Phillips

It has come to our attention that there is to be a review of the Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Ageing.

As the peak bodies representing people working in the fields of health promotion and public health in South Australia, the Australian Health Promotion Association Ltd (AHPA®) and the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) are committed to ensuring our state does everything it can to promote and protect health and prevent illness.

In recent years we have been concerned by the reduction in capacity in SA, both centrally and in health and community services, following the McCann review and other funding decisions. Whilst all states have had reductions SA appears to have suffered significantly. This has led to a lack of focus on and capacity to address the non-communicable disease related preventable causes of death and disability at the population level as outlined in the recently released AIHW report (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129556205>). This report reminds us that much of the burden is experienced disproportionately by those who are more disadvantaged and much is preventable. Public health has a major role to play in addressing this need.

South Australia also has strengths that others do not have. Its work in Health in All Policies is world leading, it has a positive relationship with local government through public health planning and health protection has been well maintained.

This review offers the opportunity to benchmark SA against other states as well as against what is required to meet this burden of disease. AHPA and PHAA are keen to contribute to the review and would welcome the opportunity to speak with the reviewers or make a written contribution.

We look forward to your response.



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