



Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**19/05/09**

### **GOVERNMENT INACTION CAUSES SCHOOLS TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF STUDENTS**

The absence of any decision by the Federal Government to include Health and Physical Education in a National Curriculum sends a dangerous message to our community according to the Australian Council for Health Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER).

If the government is serious about the health of our children they need to act decisively and include Health and Physical Education in a National Curriculum.

National Executive Director Jeff Emmel said,

“Health and Physical Education is one of only two areas of the curriculum not included in the Federal Government’s national curriculum review and development plan. This sends a dangerous message to schools, parents, teachers and the community that this area of the curriculum is not important”.

“Our concern is that schools are under immense pressure to try to satisfy national benchmarks in areas already acknowledged by the National Curriculum Board and could ignore the contribution of Health and Physical Education to children’s growth and development, motor skills, health and well-being and lifestyle”.

The Chair of ACHPER’s National Curriculum Working Group, Associate Professor Dawn Penney who will speak at the ACHPER Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May said,

“ACHPER’s intention is to secure a national curriculum entitlement that will support the goals of the Australian Education Minister’s 2008 Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians. This Declaration seeks to enable all young Australians to become confident and creative individuals, active and informed citizens and to gain the skills, knowledge and understandings for healthy and active lives.

The Federal Government’s preventative health agenda is reflected in ACHPER’s National Statement of Learning acknowledging that an educated nation, comprising active and healthy young people is the best investment that we can make for the future.

ACHPER believes that the majority of school principals, teachers and parents value Health and Physical Education and would not want to see this learning area marginalised.

Health and Physical Education will be under the spotlight on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the International ACHPER Conference in Brisbane when ACHPER and the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) host an Oceania Summit.

**Further Information / Interview**

**Jeff Emmel  
National Executive Director  
Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Inc  
214 Port Road  
Hindmarsh, South Australia 5007**

**Phone 0883403388, mob 0403570915**