

# Heatwaves and health - from impact to harm prevention

Thursday 19th August 2010

## About the seminar:

Episodes of extreme heat, also known as heatwaves, are an important public health issue because they cause death and illness and are very likely to become more frequent and more severe in the future. Heatwaves have the greatest impact on the health of those who are least able to care for themselves, including older people, particularly those who are frail, already ill and socially isolated. It is known that many heatwave-related deaths are preventable, supporting the importance of heatwave preparedness measures.

This seminar will include discussions of the impact of heatwaves on public health, the normal responses of humans to heat and how this is affected by the ageing process, heat-related illnesses, and medications and hot weather. Researchers from Victoria will discuss their heatwave research, speakers from a range of sectors, including Residential Aged Care, Local Government and the Ambulance Service, will discuss lessons learned from the 2009 heatwave and preparedness strategies for future extreme heat events, and approaches to harm minimisation will be explored.

## Who should attend:

The seminar will be of value to those involved in the care of older people in community or Residential Aged Care settings, and to those involved in planning for the prevention of harm to vulnerable groups from exposure to extreme heat.

**Venue:** State Library of Victoria, Village Roadshow Theatre, Entry 3 (Conference Centre entrance), 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne Vic 3000.

**Seminar date:** Thursday 19th August, 2010

**Seminar time:** 9:15am - 4:00pm  
(Registration opens at 8:45am)

**Cost:** \$165 per person (incl. of GST)

Further venue details, accommodation and parking information can be found on our website at:  
[www.crepatientsafety.org.au](http://www.crepatientsafety.org.au)

Enquiries to Catherine Pound on +61 3 9903 0891  
or [catherine.pound@monash.edu](mailto:catherine.pound@monash.edu)



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Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

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## Speaker and Facilitator details

(in order of appearance)

**Professor Joseph Ibrahim** is a consultant physician in geriatric medicine and health services researcher with a principal interest in quality of care and patient safety, and is an Associate Director of the Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety, located within the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. Recently he co-authored the Department of Health (Aged Care Branch) publication "Residential Aged Care Services Heatwave Ready Resource".

**Ms Jane Herington** is the Director Aged Care with the Victorian State Government Department of Health. Her responsibilities include implementation of Victorian Government policy and management of programs in relation to public sector residential aged care, home and community care, aged care assessment, independent living programs and health promotion. Jane has held this position for the past ten years. Prior to this she worked in local government, managing a wide range of physical and community services; as Director of Housing in the Tasmanian Government; and in senior roles in the Ministry of Housing and Construction Victoria and Community Services Victoria, both now part of the current Department of Human Services. Her career in the public sector, both State and local government, spans over 30 years.

**Dr Diana Egerton-Warburton** is the Director of emergency medicine training and research at Monash Medical Centre, adjunct senior lecturer at the Southern Clinical School of Monash University, and Chair of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine public health committee. Diana recently completed a Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology at Monash University. Her research interests include public health in emergency medicine and anti-emetics.

**Ms Judith McInnes** is a Research Assistant with the Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety, Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, Monash University. In 2007/2008 she was the Project Officer for research investigating attitudes, knowledge and practices of health professionals and carers regarding the minimisation of harm to elderly clients from episodes to extreme hot weather. Most recently, she has co-authored the Department of Health (Aged Care Branch) publication "Residential Aged Care Services Heatwave Ready Resource", and is currently Project Officer for a real-time evaluation of this resource.

**Professor Nigel Tapper** holds a Personal Chair in Environmental Science at Monash University where over the last 10 years he has served as Head of the School of Geography and Environmental Science, Foundation Director of the Monash Sustainability Institute, and Joint Coordinator of the Monash Atmospheric Science Program. He is currently on the Executive of the Monash Centre for Water Sensitive Cities and the Implementation Committee of the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research. Nigel has been actively involved in the work of the IPCC over the last 10 years and is currently a Member of the IPCC Expert Panel on Infrastructure and Settlements. Nigel has an active research program in surface-atmosphere interaction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and climate impacts, especially as they relate to urban environments, human health, dust and fire.

(continued overleaf)

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## Speaker profiles

**Dr Margaret Loughnan** is a Research Fellow in the School of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University. As part of her doctoral thesis, Margaret developed a population-based approach to describe possible relationships between climate and non-fatal acute myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) in Melbourne, Australia. Her current research interests focus on weather and climate related impacts on public health, with a special interest in social and environmental epidemiology and heat stress, and the spatial determinants of health.

**Ms Maree Cameron** is Manager, Quality Improvement, Aged Care Branch, Department of Health Victoria. She is a registered nurse with extensive experience in both the operational and strategic policy environments in the residential aged care sector, including nursing and executive leadership roles in the private and not-for-profit sectors in small and large organisations, operating her own business, and working for both Commonwealth and State Government departments. Maree brings this direct management experience and insight from working in the residential aged care sector to her current role, which includes the advancement of significant research and developments for promoting and advancing safety and quality in Victorian public sector residential aged services. Much of this work is seen as innovative and is being increasingly recognised across the sector.

**Professor Mark Hargreaves** is Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, at The University of Melbourne. His research interests focus on the physiological and metabolic responses to acute and chronic exercise, with a focus on carbohydrate metabolism. He has published extensively on these topics and serves on the editorial boards of several physiology and exercise physiology journals. He is a member of the boards of Melbourne University Sport and the Victorian Institute of Sport.

**Associate Professor Harvey Newnham** is a General Physician, Endocrinologist and Associate Professor of Medicine with Monash University. He has been Director of General Medicine at the Alfred Hospital since July 2007 and Clinical Program Director of Emergency and Acute Medicine for Alfred Health since December 2009. His main interests include improving services in acute medical care, medical education, disorders of lipid metabolism and vascular disease in diabetes.

**Ms Shin Choo** is a Senior Clinical Pharmacist currently working in acute general medicine. She has extensive experience in hospital pharmacy, and has previously worked in the areas of Infectious Diseases, Drug Information, Clinical Trials, and Hospital in the Home, and in the Emergency Department.

**Dr Susan Hunt** is the Senior Nurse Advisor for the Office of Aged Care Quality and Compliance, Department of Health & Ageing, providing clinical advice and support across the two aged care divisions. Susan has a background in both community and residential aged care, with a particular interest in the promotion of continence, management of incontinence and the quality use of medicines. She undertakes clinical practice with the Centre of Nursing and Midwifery Research and Practice Development at the Australian National University.

**Ms Margaret Turner** is the Chief Nursing Officer - Residential Care, for the Beechworth Health Service, where she has worked since 2005. Margaret has been involved in fire preparedness planning for the Health Service each summer since then, and in 2009 participated in a Working Group that reviewed a draft of the Department of Health publication "Residential Aged Care Services Heatwave Ready Resource". She was also directly involved in the development of the Heatwave Plan for the Beechworth Health Service.

**Mr Abrie De Wet** has worked with Kingston City Council since 2008, where he is Business Development Officer – Community and Aged Services. He also has the role of Emergency Recovery Support Coordinator for Kingston, and has completed a number of Emergency Management courses. Abrie has been responsible for coordinating the updating and implementation of Kingston's Recovery Manual, and was a member of the committee that developed the City of Kingston Heatwave Plan.

**Mr Justin Dunlop** has been employed by Ambulance Victoria since 1996. He is currently the Manager – Emergency Management within the metropolitan region and is responsible for emergency planning and management of all major incidents within the State. Justin has tertiary qualifications in paramedical and research sciences, frontline management and emergency management. He has had a lengthy volunteer career with St John Ambulance Australia and is currently an appointed member of the Victorian Board. During the recent Victorian bushfires and H1N1 Influenza 2009 outbreak, Justin undertook the lead role of Health Commander on behalf of Ambulance Victoria from within its Emergency Operations Centre. He is also the author of the Ambulance Victoria 2009/10 Bushfire and Heatwave Sub-plans which were active in December 2009 and January 2010.

**Dr John Carnie** is Director, Health Protection and Chief Health Officer, Department of Health Victoria. He has expertise and experience in a range of public health issues including communicable diseases, environmental health, and food safety and is a Fellow and Past President of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine. He was awarded the Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours, June 2009.

**Professor Chris Brook** is the Executive Director, Wellbeing, Integrated Care and Ageing for the Victorian Department of Health. This role focuses on prevention and population health; aboriginal health; integrated care - including the primary, sub acute and HARP programs; aged care; workforce policy and planning in the health sector; and internal departmental human resource functions. Chris' original postgraduate training was as a specialist physician but he has subsequently gained specialist qualifications in public health medicine, and in medical administration.

**Mr Cameron Gosling** is a PhD student and Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. He has a background in exercise rehabilitation and injury epidemiology. His PhD is focused on injury in triathletes and he has published findings into the effect of heat and acclimatisation on triathletes presenting for medical assistance during competition.

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Time	Speaker	Organisation	Area covered
0845	<b>REGISTRATION</b>		
Session 1:	The impact of heatwaves on public health		Facilitator: Prof Joseph Ibrahim
0915 - 0930	Ms Jane Herington	Department of Health, Vic	Opening comments
0930 - 0950	Dr Diana Egerton-Warburton	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne, Vic	Public health impact of the Victorian heatwave, 2009
0950 - 1010	Ms Judith McInnes	Monash University, Vic	The international experience
1010 - 1030	Prof Nigel Tapper	Monash University, Vic	Management of heat stress in urban environments: recent developments in Melbourne
1030 - 1050	Dr Margaret Loughnan	Monash University, Vic	The influence of place
1050 - 1100	Discussion and questions		
1100 - 1120	<b>MORNING TEA (20 minutes)</b>		
Session 2:	Heatwaves and the individual		Facilitator: Ms Maree Cameron
1120 - 1140	Prof Mark Hargreaves	University of Melbourne, Vic	The human response to hot weather
1140 - 1200	A/Prof Harvey Newnham	The Alfred Hospital, Vic	Why does heat make people sick?
1200 - 1220	Ms Shin Choo	The Alfred Hospital, Vic	Medications and heat-related illness
1220 - 1240	Dr Susan Hunt	Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra	Preventing harm and managing older people during extreme hot weather
1240 - 1250	Discussion and questions		
1250 - 1330	<b>LUNCH (40 minutes)</b>		
Session 3:	Preparing for next summer		Facilitator: Ms Judith McInnes
1330 - 1350	Ms Margaret Turner	Beechworth Health Service, Vic	Power outage: disaster within a disaster
1350 - 1410	Mr Abrie De Wet	Kingston City Council	A Local Government perspective
1410 - 1430	Mr Justin Dunlop	Ambulance Victoria	When to call an ambulance in a heatwave
1430 - 1450	Dr John Carnie	Department of Health, Vic	Heatwave Plan for Victoria
1450 - 1500	Discussion and questions		
1500 - 1515	<b>AFTERNOON TEA (15 minutes)</b>		
Session 4:	How can the health impact of heatwaves be reduced?		Facilitator: Prof Joseph Ibrahim
1515 - 1600	Panel Discussion: Hypothetical scenario and questions		
	Panel Members:	Prof Chris Brook Mr Cameron Gosling Dr Diana Egerton-Warburton Dr Margaret Loughnan Dr Susan Hunt Ms Margaret Turner Mr Abrie De Wet Mr Justin Dunlop	Department of Health, Victoria Monash University Monash Medical Centre Monash University Dept of Health and Ageing Beechworth Health Service Kingston City Council Ambulance Victoria
1600	<b>CLOSE</b>		

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### REGISTRATION FORM



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**COST - \$165 per person (incl. of GST)**

Payment can be made by cheque payable to Monash University, or by credit card. Cheque payments must be forwarded independent of any other payments. A copy of your registration must be included with your payment.  
(You will be notified by email within 10 working days of receipt of registration).

**EMAIL** completed registration forms to [catherine.pound@monash.edu](mailto:catherine.pound@monash.edu) (**preferred and recommended method**)

**OR**

**FAX** completed registration forms to: +61 3 9903 0181

**POST** cheques or money orders to:  
CRE Patient Safety Seminar - Catherine Pound  
Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine  
Monash University  
The Alfred Centre, Commercial Road  
Melbourne Victoria 3004



**Please keep a copy of this form as a tax invoice/receipt**

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Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment details

(We are unable to accept Amex or issue tax invoices)

Visa       Mastercard       Cheque  (payment can follow later if paying by cheque)

Total amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number

Expiry date -- -- / -- --

Signature \_\_\_\_\_