



## **HEALTH FOR ALL BY 2030: TIME TO BE BOLD AND ACT**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01am Monday 3 May 2021

AUSTRALIA has a “once-in-a-lifetime” opportunity to create a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future by taking bold action to build back better, fairer and greener after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Writing in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, Dr Sandro Demaio, CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), wrote that “change is in the air”.

“Since the pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization in March 2020, we have witnessed significant social policy reforms in Australia with the rapid introduction of evidence-based (and at times, long-debated) policy change, including free childcare, accommodation for people experiencing homelessness, wage subsidies, widespread uptake of flexible and remote working arrangements, and the rollout of telehealth,” he wrote.

“Public support has increased in some critical areas, including support for action to protect and promote health, the use of scientific evidence to inform decision making, and the leadership role of governments.”

Dr Demaio wrote that COVID-19 had exposed health inequities, and therefore heightened “dissatisfaction about the lack of progress” to redress those inequities.

“We know that a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous Australia is possible, because we know what causes good health and wellbeing, and the foundations for action are already in place,” he wrote.

VicHealth has produced a Supplement to the *MJA* entitled *Australia in 2030: what is our path to health for all*, which outlines how “health and wellbeing for current and future generations can be achieved with evidence-based action on the multiple and complex determinants of health”.

The Supplement contents include:

1. How Australia improved health equity through action on the social determinants of health;
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connection to culture: building stronger individual and collective wellbeing;
3. Physical determinants of health: healthy, liveable and sustainable communities;
4. Health promotion in the Anthropocene: the ecological determinants of health;
5. Disrupting the commercial determinants of health;
6. Digital determinants of health: the digital transformation; and,
7. Governance for health and equity: a vision for our future.

