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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity,
Melbourne Australia, 13-15 October 2006**
Co-Sponsored by the World Health Organization

I am writing to let you know that the World Health Organization is a co-sponsor of the 3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity to be held in Melbourne, Australia, 13-15 October, 2006. The WHO strongly supports the objectives of the ICHAL and encourages involvement by Australian governmental departments at all levels.

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". In our ageing world the WHO is committed to the process of ensuring that this definition applies to the young and the old alike. In the year 2000 there were 600 million people on the planet aged 60 or over. This figure will rise to 1.2 billion by 2025 and 2 billion by 2050. Ageing as a norm rather than the exception for a few is a privilege and, above all, a societal achievement. It is also a challenge which will impact on all aspects of 21st Century society. As such it is a challenge that cannot be addressed by the public or private sectors in isolation; it requires joint strategies and approaches.

With the increasing population of aged citizens there is now more than ever the critical need to develop appropriate policies so that ageing is not seen as a segregating or an isolating experience. As baby-boomers become elders, it is critical to ensure they remain healthy and independent. The 3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity will provide a pooling of knowledge from some of the world's leading researchers, academics and practitioners in the field of healthy ageing strategies, best clinical practice, and with strong emphasis on preventive healthcare and early disease detection and management.


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I was personally involved at the first two International Conferences on Healthy Ageing and Longevity and can attest that these landmark conferences were pioneers in bridging the popular beliefs and practices to promote healthy ageing and the latest scientific research on health and ageing, reinforcing the essential connection between the community and the professionals.

A world forum such as this is essentially an opportunity for practitioners, policy makers, service providers, students, consumers and relevant organisations to get together so that we can discuss strategies to promote the health of the rapidly ageing population. Ageing cannot be understood unless we have all sectors together. This is why I am writing to you for your support and participation in the 3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity to be held in Melbourne next year.

Further information is available on www.longevity-international.com

Yours sincerely,


Alexandre Kalache, MSc, MD, PHD
Coordinator, Ageing and Life Course
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