



# 15th World Congress on Public Health

3-7 April 2017 Melbourne Australia [www.wcph2017.com](http://www.wcph2017.com)

## Exploring systems approaches to chronic disease prevention

Monday 3 April 2017, 1600 - 1800, Plenary Hall 1

Lead Professor Andrew Wilson, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

Speakers Professor Andrew Wilson, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

Professor Diane Finegood, Simon Fraser University

Professor Sharon Friel, Australian National University

Dr Paul Kelly, ACT Health

Dr Therese Riley, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

Non-communicable diseases, research methodologies and methods, health systems, communities and environments, equity in health.

Chronic disease is one of the world's wicked problems killing over 38 million people a year. Risk factors such as smoking, harmful alcohol use, high body mass, high blood pressure, inappropriate food and drink consumption and physical inactivity are causing cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes. By tackling the risk factors and their underlying causes, a large proportion of the diseases could be prevented.

Complex systems approaches have been successfully used in engineering, defence, economics, ecology and business since the mid-1950s, they include both a way of thinking as well as practical tools and frameworks.

This World Leaders Dialogue will include presentations and discussion with international and national leaders in health policy and research. Participants and presenters will explore why traditional prevention efforts have had modest effects in Australia and internationally and explore the progress made using complex systems approaches, frameworks and tools. Case studies will be used to demonstrate where systems approaches have been applied at the national, state and community levels. They will explore working in complexity and shifting cultural practices to support systems change.

The case studies include:





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- Systems approaches to national level policy relating to healthy and equitable eating with Professor Sharon Friel,
- A whole-of-government approach to healthy weight with ACT Chief Health Officer, Dr Paul Kelly, and
- Understanding the prevention system in local communities with Dr Therese Riley

Finally we will discuss how The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre has used other systems approaches and methods in its projects. The Centre is driven by the belief that the modest effects of Australia's prevention interventions at the population level are because of the complex, interrelated factors which influence behaviour and the lack of consistency, persistency, coordination and intensity of interventions.

voices vision action