

## **Lunchtime Seminar**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network are holding the third in a series of lunchtime seminars, to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, from 1-2pm at the DFAT Barton Office, Canberra.

### **Seminar Topic:**

#### **Our Future: A Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing**

**A lunchtime discussion with George Patton, Professorial Fellow in Adolescent Health Research, University of Melbourne**

***Opening and closing remarks by Assistant Secretary Julianne Cowley, Health and Water Branch, DFAT.***

This is the largest cohort of 10 to 24-year-olds, relative to other ages, that will ever grow up on this planet. Around half live in the Asia-Pacific region. Relative to other age groups, adolescents have attracted little attention in public policy. Yet, there is now growing recognition that they are central to the SDGs and nearly every major agenda in international development. Their relevance for health was reflected in the announcement of a Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health at the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the first time that adolescent health has been the focus of a major international development strategy. It provides an unprecedented opportunity for investment in this age group, but also presents challenges in implementation given the limited human and technical capacities in nearly all countries.

The Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing was published in May 2016, together with the most comprehensive report yet available on the Global Burden of Disease and health risks in 10-24 year olds. The Commission brought together a consortium of universities, international NGOs, UN agencies and young health advocates under the leadership of Australia's own University of Melbourne. As Chair of the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, George Patton, will argue that there are both current threats, if inaction continues, but also tremendous unrealised opportunities not only for the health and wellbeing of young people themselves, but also for the future of society and the next generation. This seminar is part of a global campaign to continue the dialogue around this critical topic.

**For more information on the Lancet commission see the [website](#).**

### **Biography:**

**George Patton** is a Professorial Fellow in Adolescent Health Research at the University of Melbourne and a Senior Principal Research Fellow with Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC). In Australia, he has over the past 25 years led long term longitudinal studies dealing with health and social development in adolescence, continuities into later life and more recently the effects of adolescent health on the next generation.



Since 2000 he has chaired advisory groups to Australia's Institute of Health and Welfare on the health and development of Australia's children and young people. He has over 350 publications that include over 250 peer reviewed papers. In the past decade, he has led two special Series on adolescent health for the Lancet. He was recently the Chair of the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing. He has advised widely to organisations that include WHO, UNFPA, World Bank, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID.

George has been involved in a range of other consultations around the commission report: e.g. Lancet/PMNCH side event at the World Health Assembly, USAID/World Bank sponsored launch event on June 9th in Washington DC, EMRO region health ministers in Geneva 20th May; consultation to the Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity 16th May; consultations with national governments in South Africa, India and WHO's EMRO and Western Pacific region. The UN agencies supporting action in this area include WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF.