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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

GOVERNMENTS ARE FAILING THEIR CITIZENS ON HEALTH

ANH-Intl warns of healthcare crisis of unprecedented proportions

A “*healthcare crisis of unprecedented proportions*” will result unless national health systems are urgently overhauled. This is the stark conclusion of campaign group, the Alliance for Natural Health International (ANH-Intl), following a wide-ranging review of the evidence.

This conclusion is at odds with the public relations spin about success rates for treatment of disease emerging from healthcare systems in most Western countries, according to ANH-Intl executive and scientific director, Robert Verkerk PhD. “*We are constantly told that modern healthcare systems are the best they’ve ever been, and getting better,*” he observed. “*But this simply isn’t the case. Unless governments act now to mend their broken healthcare systems, a healthcare crisis of unimaginable proportions is inevitable.*”

ANH-Intl has identified numerous ways in which healthcare systems are failing citizens. “*Probably the most fundamental failure concerns disease prevention,*” said Dr Verkerk. “*The current model of healthcare is based overwhelmingly on treatment of existing conditions using pharmaceutical drugs and surgery. Prevention hardly gets a look-in. Unless this situation changes - profoundly and quickly - we are going to see a tsunami of preventable disease among the majority who continue not to heed dietary and lifestyle advice.*”

“Promoting natural and sustainable healthcare through the use of good science and good law”

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Chronic, non-communicable conditions like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and chronic respiratory disease already present the greatest health burden on societies. But, says Dr Verkerk, modern healthcare systems are not built to deal with them: *“Not only is there very little investment in disease prevention, but almost all the tools doctors are trained to use for chronic diseases involve pharmaceuticals. Their track record is poor, and the elderly are now victims of a great uncontrolled experiment of polypharmacy, with society picking up the bill for subsequent illness caused by the treatment itself. Despite overwhelming evidence for the ability of non-pharmaceutical and non-surgical strategies to both prevent and reduce the risk of chronic disease, mainstream healthcare systems have neither the expertise nor the inclination to use them.”*

Reform of the medical curriculum is prime amongst the solutions proposed by ANH-Intl. *“It is vital that healthcare professionals learn more about disease prevention, and about healthcare modalities beyond drug prescription,”* said Dr Verkerk. *“Functional and integrated medicine are leading the way in this regard, and healthcare professionals should be offered continuing medical education in these and other disciplines.*

ANH-Intl’s feature, *“Healthcare systems are broken and desperately need fixing”*, just released via its website, summarises 22 key problems with modern healthcare systems. It also proposes a series of fixes that are central to its campaign activities.

ENDS.

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EDITOR’S NOTES

Access to: “

ANH-Intl Feature: Healthcare systems are broken and desperately need fixing, released 10th April 2013:

<http://www.anh-europe.org/news/anh-intl-feature-healthcare-systems-are-broken-and-desperately-need-fixing>