

# CROAKEY HEALTH MEDIA

**PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release, 7 May 2019**

## **Join the #AusVotesHealth Twitter festival: 8 May**

An election Twitter Festival tomorrow (8 May) at [#AusVotesHealth](#) aims to get health trending.

More than 40 health advocates are contributing to the Croakey News [#AusVotesHealth program](#), covering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, climate change, health policy, mental health, the social determinants of health – and much more.

Mrs Janine Mohamed, CEO of the Lowitja Institute and chair of Croakey Health Media, will launch the discussions at 8am AEST.

The #AusVotesHealth Twitter festival will be timely, setting the scene for the third leaders debate, to be held during prime time at the National Press Club in Canberra on Wednesday moderated by ABC journalist and National Press Club President Sabra Lane.

Dr Melissa Sweet, managing editor of Croakey Health Media, says the event will provide a platform for important health issues that otherwise may not receive in-depth coverage during the election campaign, especially at a time of cutbacks to journalism and newsrooms.

“Health is a critical election issue, and yet politicians and the mainstream media often focus their analysis narrowly on hospitals and hospital funding,” she said.

“The #AusVotesHealth Twitter festival will explore the wide-ranging policies affecting our health, from self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to climate change to housing, poverty and urban design.

“#AusVotesHealth is an opportunity for everyone to hear from leading experts in these fields and to put questions to them via Twitter.

“It is a participatory event, and we know that participation and engagement are important for the community’s health – so we encourage people across all sectors to join in this Twitter festival.”

Croakey editor Jennifer Doggett said: “This event is an opportunity to send a message to political parties and candidates about the importance of the health system and broader health-promoting policies and programs.”

A similar format had worked well before the NSW election in March, engaging 900 Tweeps (see the Croakey News story [here](#)).

#AusVotesHealth discussions will be moderated by experienced journalists and policy analysts, Croakey editors Jennifer Doggett (@JenniferDoggett) and Marie McInerney (@mariemcinerney), as well as Melissa Sweet (@croakeyblog). A live rolling post will be published at Croakey.org and continuously updated throughout the day.

Follow the guest tweeters at this Twitter list:

<https://twitter.com/croakeyblog/lists/ausvoteshealth?lang=en>

See the program here:

<https://croakey.org/announcing-program-for-ausvoteshealth-twitter-festival-tune-in-on-8-may-and-beyond/>

**For more information, contact @croakeyblog**

*We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the country where we live, work and travel upon, and to the Elders, past, present and future.*