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**STATEMENT BY MS MARILYN WISE,
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THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
AND EDUCATION**

The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) would like to thank the Regional Director of the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization for his kind invitation to attend the WHO Regional Committee Meeting in Sydney. Such meetings play an important role in the development of the organizational and professional partnerships that are necessary if health for all is to be achieved in the 21st century.

About the IUHPE

The International Union for Health Promotion and Education is a unique worldwide association of individuals and organizations committed to promoting the health of the peoples of the world through education, community action, and the development of health public policies. Bringing together people from many sectors to address policy, programme and practice issues, the IUHPE provides an interdisciplinary forum for members from around the world to share knowledge and experience.

As the only international nongovernmental organization devoted to health promotion, the IUPHE is in official relationship with UNESCO, UNICEF and WHO.

Through its triennial world conferences, its journal *Promotion and Education*, and its extensive global network of individuals and organizations engaged in promoting health, IUPHE is

experienced in contributing to global, regional, national and local initiatives designed to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health promotion practice and to improve the health of populations.

Southwest Pacific regional activities

The Southwest Pacific Regional Office was established only in 1995. In December 1996 it hosted (in partnership with the Regional Office for the Western Pacific of WHO and the National Centre for Health Promotion) an international symposium that brought together key people from throughout the Western Pacific Region to discuss future directions for health promotion in the Region. Many of the keynote papers from that symposium will be published in October 1997 issue of the journal *Promotion and Education*.

World Conference in 1998

In June 1998 the IUHPE's World Conference on Health Promotion and Education will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Work has already begun to ensure that this Region's extensive activities in promoting health are widely represented at the Conference. The Conference is an opportunity for the range of people and organizations that are engaged in solving public health problems to develop their knowledge and skills, and to identify, collectively, directions for the future. Conference themes are equity, empowerment, environment and economy.