



THE BRITISH DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association for Registered Dietitians
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M e d i a R e l e a s e

Embargoed until 28 March 2007

Dietitians Call for Support to Improve Welsh Quality of Life

Bwrdd Cymru (Welsh Board) of The British Dietetic Association (BDA) today launched its manifesto describing its key priorities. These are to improve public health and hospital food, support chronic disease management and develop the dietetic workforce in Wales to enhance the quality of life for people living in Wales.

Dietitians in Wales are now asking for support from the political parties in helping them to take these key priorities forward.

Siân Burton, registered dietitian and chair of Bwrdd Cymru said: "Dietitians have an integral role in public health, working in partnership with other agencies to achieve key targets. Key issues where dietitians can really make a difference include tackling increasing levels of obesity and other diet related diseases such as diabetes, respiratory conditions and coronary heart disease. Nutrition is the cornerstone of management and dietitians promote and enable independence and self care.

"Despite a demand for dietitians across Wales, cuts in funding have meant that well-qualified individuals are being denied jobs, which could make a real difference to people's health and wellbeing.

"We now call upon the political parties to support dietitians in taking forward these key priorities to improve nutrition in Wales".

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Website: <http://www.bda.uk.com>

Notes to Editors

1. Media enquiries to The British Dietetic Association and requests for interviews (in English and Welsh languages) should be directed to 0870 580 2517 (9am – 5pm Mon – Fri) or to pr@bda.uk.com
2. The manifesto will be launched at the 'Health, Well-Being and Social Care Advocacy Day' at The Welsh Assembly on 28 March 2007, at 1.30pm. Dr Brian Gibbons, Minister for Health and Social Services, will be attending the launch.
3. The British Dietetic Association, founded in 1936, is the professional association for registered dietitians in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the nation's largest organisation of food and nutrition professionals with nearly 6,000 members. About two-thirds of members are employed in the National Health Service. The remaining members work in education, industry, research, sport settings or freelance.
4. Registered dietitians hold the only legally-recognisable graduate qualification in nutrition and dietetics. They are experts in interpreting and translating the science of nutrition into practical ways of promoting nutritional well-being, disease treatment and the prevention of nutrition-related problems. Their advice is sound and based on current scientific evidence.
5. Registration, awarded by the Health Professionals Council, is an indication that a dietitian is fit to practise and is working within an agreed statement of conduct.
6. The recently-developed Welsh Board (Bwrdd Cymru) of The British Dietetic Association will provide a focus for all BDA activity in Wales, establish a forum for discussion of pertinent issues and provide a stronger voice for dietitians in Wales. For more information contact n.morris@bda.uk.com or wales@bda.uk.com

For further details about The British Dietetic Association, please visit our websites: www.bda.uk.com, www.bdaweightwise.com , www.teenweightwise.com