

Ways to plan for the future

By **LAURA BANKS**

ONE of Australia's highly-acclaimed futurists and political scientists Professor Sohail Inayatullah was in Warrnambool yesterday to kick-start the 2006 Rural Victorian Alcohol and Drug conference.

Professor Inayatullah held a workshop at Warrnambool Function Centre in line with the conference's 2006 theme "Make It Happen".

Students and workers in the health and welfare profession attended yesterday's satellite-link conference.

"(I'm) giving people methods and tools to think to the future. To help them identify and organise for the future," Professor Inayatullah said.

"I am trying to enable foresight where there may be a problem, for people to treat the cause and not just intervene the symptoms."

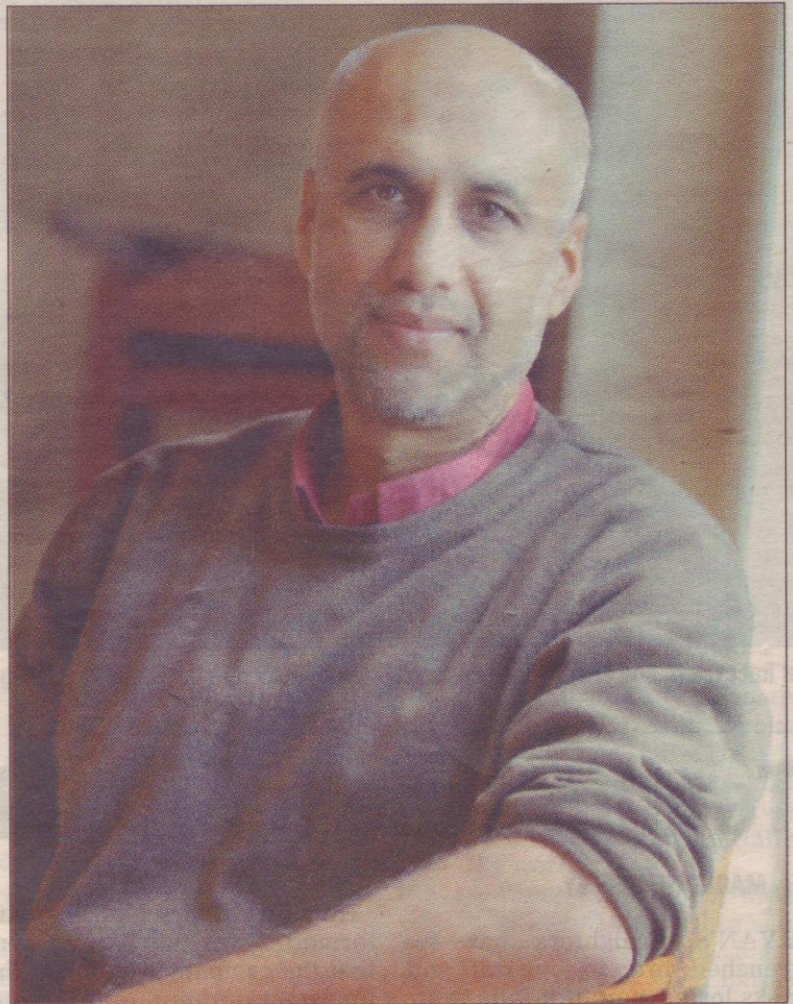
The professor said it was an intriguing conference and he was pleased to be invited back for the second year in a row.

"It's a smart idea to include the different people, from police to counsellors and welfare workers. It makes for a richer conference," he said.

Professor Inayatullah said one of the themes he was exploring was "Have you purchased a used vehicle?"

He wanted to get people to look at their future and ascertain where they were heading. "Are you living the life you want to lead, or are you living in someone else's footsteps and dreams?"

The RVAD conference will



Professor Sohail Inayatullah: foresight.

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run today and tomorrow at Warrnambool Entertainment Centre, covering topics related to alcohol and drug services and issues of indigenous and rural young.

Keynote speakers include Dr Alex Wodak, director of alcohol and drug service at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, talking about methampheta-

mines; recovering alcoholic Brian Thomson, manager of Percy Green Memorial Recovery Centre, addressing services in rural areas; and Professor Rob Moodie, chairman of the Premier's drug prevention council, speaking on the topic "You can't look after anyone else if you can't look after yourself."