



Australian
**HEALTH
PROMOTION**
Association

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PROMOTION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



VISION

LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH PROMOTION

“Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over the determinants of health and thereby improve their health.”
 (World Health Organization Ottawa Charter 1986).

PURPOSE

To advance the health of all people in Australia through leadership, advocacy and support for health promotion action in practice, research, evaluation and policy

The health promotion profession has evolved alongside, and in response to, the international health promotion movement and the broader new public health movement. Health promotion not only embraces actions directed at strengthening the skills and capabilities of individuals but also actions directed towards changing social, environmental, political and economic conditions to alleviate their impact on population health.

AHPA IN ACTION

To achieve AHPA's vision and purpose the Board and members commit to:

→ ETHICAL PRACTICE

Supporting culturally informed, participatory, respectful, and safe practice.

→ HEALTH EQUITY

Addressing the social determinants of health in order to build health equity.

→ INNOVATIVE + EVIDENCE INFORMED APPROACHES

Promoting and supporting evidence informed research, policy and practice.

→ COLLABORATION

Working in partnership with other organisations to improve health and wellbeing.

ABOUT AHPA®

The Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) is Australia's peak health promotion body in Australia and is the only professional association in Australia specifically for people interested or involved in the practice, research and study of health promotion. The Association has operational Branches in most states and territories with members and subscribers from government departments and agencies, universities, nongovernment organisations, community-based organisations and groups, private companies and industries, and students. As an Australian Public Company limited by guarantee, the Association must meet the requirements of both the Corporations Act 2001 and its own Constitution. These two documents together form the framework within which the Board of Directors governs the company.



WELCOME

*Ring the bells that still can ring / Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything / That's how the light gets in*
Leonard Cohen - Anthem

Welcome to the 2016 Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) Annual Report. It was another busy year for the Association. Our achievements are outlined in this report against our strategic priorities showing AHPA continues to exceed expectations and demonstrates ongoing leadership for health promotion in Australia.

Our strategic and operational plan continued to guide our work. We continued our relationship with Not for Profit Accounting Specialists (NFPAS) to provide our secretariat, book keeping and accounting services to use the Association's limited resources effectively and efficiently. We implemented a regular members' Communiqué and increased our social media presence as mechanisms to communicate our work to our members and keep members and partners informed of progress against strategic and operational priorities. We had a particular focus on professionalisation and progress of the National Accreditation Organisation; more strategic management of our partnerships; member recruitment and retention; harmonising branch

activity; knowledge translation; and ways to reduce the operational responsibilities of Branches and the Board. All these initiatives continue to build the foundations for a financially successful and sustainable future for the Association and by implication, all members.

The 2016 annual Board face to face meeting was held on November 25 and 26 in Adelaide. There was robust and productive discussion on key issues (including those described above) and opportunities for the Association over the next year. In particular we committed to: reviewing financial and branch - national structures; providing allocation of funding for assistance to develop a more strategic approach to advocacy; and developing a long term plan for delivery of conferences. We resolved to: increase funding for operational support; seek more nuanced

information about our membership base; and further develop a long term business model. We also discussed ways to enhance our support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health promotion and made significant decisions about the future of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia (HPJA).

LOOKING BACK

For many, 2016 couldn't come to a close fast enough. With a few exceptions, it was a year that reminded us of the political and contested nature of health. In her updated book of essays *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities* Rebecca Solnit wrote:

"This is an extraordinary time full of vital, transformative movements that could not be foreseen. It's also a nightmarish time. Full engagement requires the ability to perceive both."

We saw continuing conflict, rejection of scientific evidence, and calls for barriers both physical and policy between the "haves" and the "have nots". In his 2016 Croakey reflection, Professor Peter Sainsbury noted:

"...the old joke was: 'It doesn't matter who you vote for, you always end up with a politician'. But the modern retelling is: 'It doesn't matter who's in government, you still get neo-liberalism.'"

The march of neo-liberalism and populist politics, signalled by Brexit, the election of Trump and increasing popularity of Hanson and Le Pen (amongst others) was driven at least in part by a failure to really listen to the concerns of the people.

And no longer did protecting the most vulnerable seem to be a focus for those with the most power. In Australia, despite overwhelming condemnation, the Manus and Nauru refugee camps continued to operate. Shocking abuse in Don Dale led to a Royal Commission in the Northern Territory. Climate change momentum continued to build from the Lancet Commission on Health and Climate to the Paris Agreement. However locally, commitment from government to action on climate change left a lot to be desired.

A lack lustre federal budget provided little commitment for health promotion. In his Budget 2016 wrap up in the Conversation, Professor Rob Moodie said of its impact for health promotion and prevention:

"that despite everyone chanting the mantra prevention is better than cure, there are no other investments in preventive health that can, in any way, be seen as commensurate with the size and costs of the problems we face with obesity, diabetes, cancer and alcohol related injury, illness and death... Australia is in dire need of visionary health ministers.... If increasing the tax on tobacco is so effective, why aren't successive governments thinking of introducing a tax on sugar... or thinking of increasing taxes on alcohol products with higher alcohol volumes? These are win-win outcomes, but despite strong community support... our politicians currently fear Big Food and Big Alcohol lobbies more than they fear the little voters. But that can change"



This final statement gives us reason for hope. Indeed, Solnit invites us do so:

“Hope doesn’t mean denying these realities. It means facing them and addressing them by remembering what else the twenty-first century has brought, including the movements, heroes, and shifts in consciousness that address these things now.”

The decision making of those in power can change. We just need to give them a reason.

In the 30th anniversary year of the Ottawa Charter, leaders came together in Shanghai for the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion co-organised by the WHO. The Shanghai Declaration on Health Promotion committed to bold political choices for health, stressing the links between health and wellbeing and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Globally we saw elimination of or significant reductions in a number of infectious diseases including measles, mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis, malaria and other neglected tropical diseases. Several countries announced progress towards taxes on sugary drinks and plain packaging of tobacco products. The World Federation of Public Health Associations launched the Global Charter for the Public’s Health highlighting health promotion as one of three key pillars (Protection, Promotion and Prevention) to address public health issues globally.

We saw passage of the Public Health Act 2016 in Western Australia, 105 years after the last Act. It was positive to see Victoria’s commitment to gender equality and ending family violence. The launch of the Redfern Statement provided an “urgent call for a more just approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs”. New treatments for hepatitis C (with a cure rate of 95-97%) became available via the PBS putting within reach an end to hepatitis C. In the Boyer lecture series, collectively titled: *Fair Australia: Social Justice and the Health Gap* Sir Michael Marmot placed renewed focus on the social determinants of health.

AHPA priorities reflect these local, national and international imperatives. From the 2015 AGM Report we listed AHPA’s Board priorities and events as:

1. Guiding and supporting the 2017 World Federation of Public Health Congress; COMPLETE
2. Ensuring the 2016 conference in Perth is a success; COMPLETE
3. Commencing planning for future conferences; IN PROGRESS
4. Registering the first health promotion practitioners through the IUHPE process; IN PROGRESS
5. Building stronger relationships with partners; ONGOING

6. Further enhancing the reputation of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia; ONGOING
7. Increasing our advocacy efforts with current and new partners; ONGOING
8. Enhancing the website and increasing our presence on social media; COMPLETE
9. Supporting AHPA members and branches; ONGOING
10. Development of a Reconciliation Action Plan and determining the best way to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Promotion practitioners; IN PROGRESS
11. Implementing a sustainable business model; IN PROGRESS
12. Ensuring AHPA remains a strong and responsive professional organisation; ONGOING



LOOKING FORWARD

So, as Sir Michael Marmot says “Do something, Do more, Do better!” Our priority is to demand a fair and just society, one which values health, and one another. Worryingly, and despite evidence to the contrary, Australia’s investment in prevention and social determinants of health continues to decline. Better understanding is required amongst decision makers of the fundamental issues that we collectively face that can be addressed, at least in part by a strong health promotion workforce, sufficient investment in prevention and action on the social determinants of health.

Approaches in health promotion (and public health more broadly) should not work in competition. It is not non-communicable diseases OR infectious diseases OR action on climate change. An effective health promotion practitioner, with a strong understanding of the theoretical and conceptual history of health promotion and the Ottawa Charter, knows that we don’t cherry pick the bits we like, to suit individual agendas. A truly health promoting approach requires us to consider the upstream and downstream causes of poor health not just for individuals, but communities, societies and the planet. Specific action on risk factors for poor health such as tobacco, alcohol and obesity should not negate the need to address the social, ecological, political, commercial and economic determinants. These are all equally important and inextricably linked.

Accordingly, we need to hold firm to our approach (there is good evidence for it), to prevent getting lost in the fashion of the day. We are part of a global community - a health promotion social imaginary if you will. What we do, and how we respond, matters - to the world. We must be ready to confront global governance institutions, corporations and States if we are to see the sort of progress envisioned in the Alma Ata. To do this we need (among other things) to promote more citizen participation. We must build our collective political literacy and engage in critical debate, thinking and reading. Our job, as I see it, is to work to influence the conditions that prevent people from achieving good health and to do it equitably, ethically and informed by evidence.

Professor Fran Baum noted in her Croakey reflections on 2016 and hopes for 2017 that “the beast is out of the shadow”. She goes on:

“This is an important message– the beast is there to be confronted.

Corporate capitalism in all its neo-liberal glory! Now the task is to find the points to bringing in the light locally, nationally and globally”.

Thus, there is every reason to hope. As Solnit puts it:

“power comes from the shadows and the margins, that our hope is in the dark around the edges, not the limelight of center stage. Our hope and often our power.”

These are our calls to action. I am sure that collectively we can respond. As George Michael said *“I gotta have faith”*.

In 2017 our work will focus on:

1. Registering the first health promotion practitioners according to the IUHPE National Accreditation Organisation process
2. Planning for the 2018 national AHPA conference
3. Providing support for the IUHPE conference in New Zealand in 2019
4. Developing a combined induction kit for new Branch committee members
5. Developing membership attraction and retention strategies including welcome and renewal packs for members
6. Finalising an advocacy framework
7. Developing new and maintain

- existing partnerships to enhance advocacy efforts
8. Introducing new publishers and a new Editor to the Health Promotion Journal of Australia
 9. Supporting Branches to work together to achieve operational outcomes
 10. Profiling members more prominently on the website
 11. Building on the WA Reconciliation Action Plan, develop a national AHPA approach to Reconciliation
 12. Promoting the *Preventive health: How much does Australia spend and is it enough?* report being prepared by Prof Alan Shiell and co-funded by AHPA
 13. Continuing to be a responsive professional association.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the people who make up our Board committees, Branch committees, HPJA Editorial team and Editorial Board, the staff at NFPAS, to our funders and partners and to our committed members, all working together to ensure health promotion has a voice in Australia.

In particular I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the AHPA Board for their commitment to implementing the strategic vision of the Association. My gratitude goes to this group of steadfast individuals who give up countless hours, and without whom we would not have an association. As you know, AHPA operates as a very lean organisation. We do not receive any government funding for our central functions relying in the main on volunteers to operationalise our strategic vision. This means our committed membership is extremely important in order for us to undertake our work. Without our team of enthusiastic, dedicated people, we would not have an association to provide leadership in health promotion in Australia. So, to you all, my heartfelt thanks.

Gemma Crawford
President
Australian Health Promotion Association



OUR WORK

At the National level current activities include:

- a National Conference usually held hosted by Branches;
- a collaborative tri-yearly Population Health Congress with partners: Public Health Association of Australia, the Australasian Epidemiological Association and the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine;
- the Health Promotion Journal of Australia;
- regular member updates via a member Communiqué;
- a website providing professional and membership information;
- social media activities;
- a range of advocacy activities; and
- a national listserv providing members with employment, advocacy and events information.

At the Branch level activities include:

- professional development, such as seminars, workshops and training;
- employment scholarships for health promotion students or graduates;
- mentoring programs;
- conference scholarships;
- social media;
- jobs and events e- lists;
- newsletters outlining current activities and local issues; and
- advocacy activities.

The major work of the Association is aligned with the Association's Strategic Directions which are:

→ A highly skilled & sustainable health promotion workforce

- Build the capacity of the health promotion profession through contemporary professional development for members and the sector.
- Promote the profession and the professional identity of health promotion practitioners.
- Promote and disseminate health promotion research and evaluation, and support evidence translation activities and initiatives.
- Strengthen professional and career opportunities for health promotion practitioners.
- Acknowledge and reward professional excellence in health promotion.

→ Effective advocacy for health promotion issues

- Create a strong public voice for health promotion issues through effective advocacy.
- Effectively communicate the value of health promotion, the profession and AHPA.

→ A strong & responsive professional organisation

- Ensure best practice in AHPA's systems, policies, procedures and budgets.
- Develop and sustain strategic alliances and partnerships to promote population health and wellbeing and achieve greater advocacy impact.
- Build a vibrant and well supported organisation with a sustainable membership base.



OUR PEOPLE

THE NATIONAL WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION IS CONDUCTED THROUGH A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS. FOR 2016 THESE WERE THE:

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Paul Klarenaar (Lead), Dr Marguerite Sendall, Kate Vrljic, Gemma Crawford, Michele Herriot, Suzanne Gleeson

BRANCH PRESIDENTS' COMMITTEE

Committee members: Elisha McGuiness/Michele Herriot (Chair), Alana Booth and Associate Professor James Smith, Melinda Edmunds, Dr Stefania Velardo, David Towl, James Kite, Dr Nikki Percival/Barbra Smith

BUSINESS MODEL WORKING GROUP

Committee members: Dr Dimitri Batras (Chair), Gemma Crawford, Suzanne Gleeson, Andrew Jones-Roberts, Paul Klarenaar, Kate Vrljic

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP WORKING GROUP

Committee members: Michele Herriot (Chair-Communications until October 2016), Adam Delaine, Elisha McGuiness, Rochelle Smith, Kirsty de Blanken, Cat Street (to August 2016), Heather McCormack (May 2016 -) Emma Woolley (May 2016-), Carly Monaghan (May 2016-), Rachel Stevens (May 2016-), Kate Vrljic (Chair-Membership until October 2016-), Rudie Marshall-Lang (August 2016-), Melinda Edmunds (Chair-Communications and Membership October 2016-)

CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP

Committee members: Gemma Crawford (Chair), Suzanne Gleeson, Andrew Jones-Roberts

MENTORING COMMITTEE

Janette Young (Chair), Kate Reakes, Joanna Schwarzman, Melinda Edmunds, Chantelle Jeffery, Professor Jenni Judd, Dagmar Schmitt, Michele Herriot

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE & FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee members: Gemma Crawford (Chair), Michele Herriot, Suzanne Gleeson, David Duncan, Melanie Smith/Jenny Philip-Harbutt

PROFESSIONALISING HEALTH PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Committee members: Andrew Jones-Roberts (Chair), Janine Phillips, Paul Klarenaar, Tia Lockwood, Dr Dimitri Batras, Dr Marguerite Sendall, Lucy Wickam

RESEARCH, EVALUATION & EVIDENCE TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

Committee members: Dr Justine Leavy (Chair), Peter Malouf (Deputy Chair), Professor Jenni Judd, Associate Professor James Smith, Professor Chris Rissel, Melanie Smith, Dagmar Schmitt (October 2016-), Associate Professor Jonine Jancey

LIFE MEMBERS

Life Membership is the highest honour the Association can bestow. Life Membership is given in recognition of distinguished, meritorious and special service as a mature leader in health promotion in Australia and an individual's significant contribution to the purpose and objectives of the Association.

- Ray James (2000)
- Trevor Shilton (2000)
- Jan Ritchie (2006)
- Lily O'Hara (2006)
- Chris Rissel (2013)
- Peter Howat (2014)

AHPA FELLOWS

The Association also recognises significant contribution to the purposes and objectives of the Association and to health promotion in Australia by conferring the award Fellow of the Association.

- John Lowe (1999)
- Marilyn Wise (2000)
- Lawrence St Leger (2002)
- Fran Baum (2007)
- James Smith (2013)
- Suzanne Gleeson (2013)
- Ben Smith (2014)

THE BOARD

EXECUTIVE

GEMMA CRAWFORD

PhD candidate; MHP; PGDipPubHlth; BA (Psych)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Academic - Health Promotion, Collaboration for Evidence, Research and Impact in Public Health, School of Public Health, Curtin University; Director, FoxPollard

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2010-); National President (2013-); WA Branch-Strategic Advisory Group (2014-); President/Co-President - WA Branch (2010-2014); Co-Chair Scientific Committee - 18th National Conference (2009); Treasurer - WA Branch (2005-2008)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

National President; Chair - Conference Working Group; Chair - Executive & Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

MICHELE HERRIOT

GDipHlthEd; GCHlthEcon; BA (Hons)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Director, Michele Herriot Health Promotion Consulting

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2013-); National Vice President (2013-); Member - SA Branch Committee (2008-09)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

National Vice President; Chair - Communications Working Group; Chair - Branch Presidents' Committee

JENNY PHILIP-HARBUTT

GDipCounselling, BComms

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Advisor, Community Engagement and Service Development, Anangu Lands Partnership; Department of Education and Child Development (SA)

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (July 2016-); Company Secretary (Sept 2016-); Director (2012-2015); Company Secretary (2013-2015)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

AHPA Company Secretary

DAVID DUNCAN

MSc; BHLth (Hlth Prom)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Student Health Coordinator, University of the Sunshine Coast (QLD)

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2012-); National Treasurer (2014-)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Treasurer

SUZANNE GLEESON

FAHPA, MPH; BSc (Psych) (Hons); GNC; Cert IV Workplace Training

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Health Promotion Program Manager: Communities and Places. Division Population Health, Sydney Local Health District

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2009-); National Secretary (2013-); National President (2009-2013); President - NSW Branch (2006-2009); Member - NSW Branch Committee (2005-); Secretary - NSW Branch Committee (2014); Co-Convenor-21st National Conference (2013)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

National Secretary

MELANIE SMITH

GDipHlthProm; GDHlthCounselling; DipT; Health Leads Mt Eliza Business School

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Executive Officer, Active Ageing Australia; Cardiovascular Team, Heart Foundation SA; Consultant, Core & More Health Promotion

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2014-); Company Secretary (2014-); Member - SA Branch Committee

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Secretary (until Sept 2016)

BOARD MEMBERS

DR DIMITRI BATRAS

PhD; MPPM; BAppSc (Hlth Prom) (Hons)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Principal Consultant, Attained Success Consulting (Vic)

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2014-); Member - Vic Branch Committee (2007)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - AHPA Business Model Working Group

MELINDA EDMUNDS

BSc (Hlth Prom)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Senior Coordinator, Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (July 2016-); Co-Convenor - 23rd National Conference (2016); President - WA Branch Committee (2014-2016); Member - Branch Presidents' Working Group (2014-2016); Member - National Mentoring Working Group (2016); Co-Vice President - WA Branch Committee (2014)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - Membership and Communications Committee (Oct 2016-)

ANDREW JONES-ROBERTS

PGDHlthProm; GDipLeisure Studies;

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Project Manager / Contractor

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2009-); President - Vic Branch Committee (2009-2013); Convenor - Vic Branch Executive (2009-2013); Convenor - 19th National Conference (2010); Convenor - Vic Branch Mentoring Program Working Group (2002-2009)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - Professionalising Health Promotion Committee; Chair - Management Committee, National Accreditation Organisation; Chair - Appeals & Complaints, National Accreditation Organisation; Member - National Organising Committee, 15th World Congress on Public Health 2017

PAUL KLARENAAR

GCert. Healthy Planning; GDipPublic Sector Mgt; M App. Sc. (Sports Physio)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Director, Health Promotion, Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSW Health); Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Sydney Medical School, Public Health

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2013-)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - Advocacy Working Group; Advocacy Lead; Chair - Public Relations & Communications, National Accreditation Organisation

DR JUSTINE LEAVY

PhD; MPH; BSc (Hlth Prom); Assoc Dip Dent Therapy

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow, Curtin University; Australian Coordinator, Global Institute for Dental Education, Los Angeles (USA)

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2013-)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation Committee

PETER MALOUF

PhD Candidate; BHSci; MPHATODS; GradDipPHTM

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

PhD Candidate, College of Medicine and Dentistry, James Cook University, Townsville (QLD)

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2014-FEB 2016)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputy Chair - Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation Committee

BOARD MEMBERS CONTINUED

ELISHA MCGUINNESS

MPH, BHSc (Hth Prom)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Senior Public Health Officer, Townsville Public Health Unit

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2014–July 2016); President - QLD Branch Committee (2012–2017); Vice President - QLD Branch Committee (2011–2012); Member - QLD Branch Committee (2009–2011)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - Branch Presidents' Committee

DR FLORIN OPRESCU

PhD; MBA; MPH; MD

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Senior Lecturer (Public Health / Health Promotion), University of the Sunshine Coast

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2014–July 2016)

DAGMAR SCHMITT

MPH, BAppSc (Env Health), Dip Mgt

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Program Leader Health Promotion, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Department of Health (NT); Honorary University Fellow, School of Health, Charles Darwin University

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (July 2016 –); Member – NT Branch Executive (2008–2016); Treasurer- NT Branch (2008–2011)

DR MARGUERITE SENDALL

PhD; MHSc

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Academic QUT

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2015–); Member - Queensland Branch (2007 – 2015); Chair - Professional Development Committee Queensland Branch (2008 – 2014)

KATE VRLJIC

GradCert (Project Mgt); M (Psych); GradDip (Psych); BA

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Senior Project Officer, Department of Health and Human Services (Vic)

AHPA EXPERIENCE (STATE/NATIONAL)

Director (2014–)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair - Membership Working Group (2015–Oct 2016)

HIGHLIGHTS

A HIGHLY SKILLED AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH PROMOTION WORKFORCE

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND EVIDENCE TRANSLATION

The Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation (REET) Committee has been very active in 2016 and achieved a number of 'firsts' including two Virtual Issues in 2016. In March 2016 CSIRO appointed a new Senior Publisher Dr Brietta Pike to oversee the Health Promotion Journal of Australia (HPJA) as Dr Chris Anderson retired from CSIRO. REET has worked closely with Dr Brietta Pike to bring some new initiatives to our subscribers and reviewers including: a subscription to the HPJA for all reviewers by way of a thank-you for reviewing for the journal; and a letter to all authors suggesting ways in which social media can be used to promote their HPJA article.

Over the past year the Health Promotion Journal of Australia (HPJA) impact factor rose to 1.231 (up from 0.945). This is a great achievement and reflects the hard work of a highly capable and committed editorial team, which includes Associate Professor Jonine Jancey as the Editor-in-Chief. The Ray James Memorial Award for excellence and innovation in health promotion research published in the Health Promotion Journal of Australia was presented to Annabel Axford and Dr Drew Carter at the Australian Health Promotion Association Conference

June 19-22, Perth, Western Australia. The award was presented for their paper entitled 'Building workforce capacity for ethical reflection in health promotion: a practitioner's experience'. REET Committee congratulates the recipients on this achievement.

CSIRO facilitated the selection and promotion of the two virtual issues in 2016. The first Virtual Issue (VI) featuring 'Climate Change and Health Promotion' was introduced by Fiona Armstrong Executive Director Climate and Health Alliance and the second was a collection of papers 'Looking forward, looking back' to celebrate 30 years of the Ottawa Charter and was introduced by REET Committee member and past Editor of the HPJA and AHPA life member, Professor Chris Rissel. Virtual Issue 2 was offered to all delegates who attended the Australian Health Promotion Association Conference in Perth, two weeks prior to the conference as a special offer and saw an increase in access to the featured articles. The downloads of the 11 papers included in the second virtual issue for the four months prior to the VI compared to the four months these papers were free access during June-September 2016 were: four months prior to the VI: 321 downloads and four months during VI: 2237

downloads. This represents a seven fold increase in downloads; a most pleasing result for the Journal with some articles doubling their citations.

In 2016 the REET committee endorsed the appointment of a newly created role for a Digital Strategy Expert responsible for facilitating the dissemination of evidence and evaluation using digital and social media strategies. We look forward to working with our new member in 2017. Finally, in the first quarter of 2016 REET completed a scoping review of potential publishers and prepared the Select Tender document for circulation in November 2016. Five publishing houses have been shortlisted and preliminary discussions with SAGE, Wiley Blackwell and CSIRO have been insightful. The outcome of the Publishing tender process will be known in the first quarter of 2017. Finally, a special issue on Advancing Evaluation Practice was released at the end of the year with guest editors Associate Professor Ben Smith, Professor Chris Rissel, Adjunct Professor Trevor Shilton and Professor Adrian Bauman.

PROFESSIONALISING HEALTH PROMOTION

In February 2016, the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) advised AHPA that our application to become the National Accreditation Organisation (NAO) for the IUHPE European Health Promotion Accreditation System had been approved. During 2016 the Professionalising Health Promotion Committee established the governance, systems and processes required to be the NAO.

Key achievements during 2016 are:

- Terms of Reference for the following committees were approved by the AHPA Board of Directors:
 - NAO Management Committee
 - NAO Assessment Sub-committee
 - NAO Appeals / Complaints Sub-committee
 - Continuing Professional Development Sub-committee
 - NAO Public relations / Communications Sub-committee
- An Expression of Interest process was implemented to recruit committee members. Thirty-five AHPA members are now members of the above NAO committees.
- A marketing plan was prepared and implementation commenced. The plan includes communication with AHPA branches and members, employers, universities and other AHPA stakeholders. Updates were provided via AHPA newsletters and the website. A workshop was conducted with delegates at the 2016 AHPA National Health Promotion Conference in Perth.

- A fee structure for registration prepared and was approved by the AHPA Board of Directors.
- A new email link was created for the NAO: NAO@healthpromotion.org.au. This is for all email correspondence re the NAO.
- An on-line application site has been produced. The site is ready for piloting with the first cohort of applicants.
- A questionnaire has been developed to gather feedback from people who participate in the on-line application process and inform the ongoing improvement of the registration system.

A NATIONAL APPROACH TO MENTORING

For the first time AHPA implemented a national approach to mentoring drawing on the experience of branches that had previously operated programs within their state. Eight AHPA members joined the Working Group and invitations to apply were sent out in March. Branch Presidents provided support for the mentoring program.

A national approach is particularly important in supporting smaller branches that may struggle to find a diversity of mentors given reductions in health promotion positions in a number of states. We had 50 applications from across Australia (excluding Tasmania) and eventually managed to partner all mentees with a mentor. A key learning from this trial included the need to develop a more streamlined application system to reduce administration time; an online application process will operate in 2017.

A survey of mentors and mentees reported a positive response to the trial. Results from the 39 responses showed:

- Seventy-three percent (73%) of people had their mentor in a different state or territory and participants enjoyed getting

an insight into the breadth and diversity of health promotion across Australia.

- Participants were generally positive about the value of the mentoring program with comments noting it was rewarding; an opportunity to meet a really talented professional and promoted a refreshing of health promotion theory in practice.
- There were some challenges including making contact with time differences across the country.
- Overall, both mentors and mentees found the relationship rewarding.

“One of the fantastic things to focus on has been my career progression where my mentor has helped me focus on where I would like to see myself over the coming years. My mentor gave me invaluable assistance to prepare for an interview and I received positive feedback which has vastly improved my confidence and approach for future job applications.”

- Kirsty de Blanken

“Participating in the AHPA Mentoring Program over the past year has influenced my professional growth more than I could imagine. My mentor has been a source of support, encouragement and wisdom.”

- Rebecca Meldrum



NATIONAL MEETINGS

'Connecting the Dots-Tradition to Innovation, Making it Matter: AHPA 23rd National Conference 2016

The AHPA national conference was held in June. More than 300 delegates attended the event, which was held in Perth overlooking Scarborough Beach. The conference celebrated the 30th anniversary of the inception of the Ottawa Charter. Delegates were treated to a range of performances and activities throughout the conference, a range of innovative presentations and concurrent sessions, pre conference workshops and dancing, dancing and more dancing at the conference dinner. The Eberhard Wenzel Oration was presented by AHPA Life Member, Professor Chris Rissel and in keeping with the conference theme was entitled: 'Tradition to Innovation, Making it Matter'. Chris spoke eloquently and knowledgeably about the evolution of health promotion related to the Ottawa Charter, touched on key historical milestones, discussed opportunities we have in the future, and drew on examples from the NSW context. A transcript for the presentation can be found here: <https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/about-ahpa/orations>

Our sincere thanks go to the Conference Co-Convenors Melinda Edmunds and Dr Melissa Stoneham and the other organising Local Organising Committee members - Lisa Rooke, Linda Portsmouth and Laura

Hunter, as well as all of the members of the sub-committees and our key sponsors, Healthway, Vic Health and WA Health who helped make the event a success. More information on the program can be found here: <http://ahpa2016.com.au/program/>.

Voice, Vision, Action: 15th World Congress on Public Health 2017

AHPA, along with PHAA, AEA, AFPHM as well as the Australian Women's Health Network and PHANZ supported the development of the World Congress on Public Health, to be held in Melbourne in April 2017. Board Member Andrew-Jones Roberts represented the Board on the Conference Organising Committee. AHPA was also ably represented on the Scientific Committee with Dr Nikki Percival (QLD Branch President), Associate Professor James Smith (NT Branch President), Associate Professor Jonine Jancey (HPJA Editor in Chief) and Professor Li Ming Wen (NSW Branch) all participating. More than 1100 abstracts were received for the Congress which demonstrates the scope of interest from around the world. Thank you to all members who were involved in reviewing abstracts and assisting with work on the Congress in 2016. The Association is pleased to co-sponsor the First Nations Suicide Prevention World Leadership Dialogue.

The Congress aims to improve public health by:

- Engaging diverse voices, ideas, vision and actions of committed professionals and citizens to strengthen and transform the global public health effort and influence decision makers
- Analysing, demonstrating, and sharing local, regional and global public health lessons particularly gender and discrimination
- Examining the effective translation of evidence based science into action
- Articulating and promoting the pivotal role of health in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Supporting and nurturing the next generation of public health leaders
- Building on the intent of the Kolkata Declaration 2015 and Global Charter for Public Health
- Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the WFPHA and Celebrating World Health Day, April 7 2017.
- See the Congress website for more information <http://www.wcph2017.com/>.

The Board Conference Working Group started conversations about a nationally organised conference for 2018, tentatively slated to be held mid-year in Canberra. More information to come.

We started a discussion about our involvement in the 23rd IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion which will be organised and hosted in April 2019 by the Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand. See the IUHPE website for more information <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/conferences>.

HIGHLIGHTS

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY FOR HEALTH PROMOTION ISSUES

The Association has, via the Board, branches, members and partners, undertaken a range of advocacy activities throughout 2016, including:

MEDIA, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

- Signatory to the Statement on Coal Plants from Health Organisations around the world in anticipation of the G7 Meeting in May
- Signatory to the Chronic Disease Statement of Commitment
- Signatory to the Australian Health Policy Collaboration campaign "Getting Australia's Health on Track" and Health Tracker Report Cards.
- Joint media statement with CAHA and DRS Reform Society on Global Health and Coal Statement
- Development of proactive advocacy materials for members to use such as a poster to help explain health promotion (WA Branch)
- Two local radio interviews occurred that related to healthy food programs in remote communities and smoking legislation and regulations in the Darwin city precinct (NT Branch)
- Developed and published infographic titled "Treatment Costs | Health Promotion Saves" calling on parties to commit to 6% of health budget to health promotion for federal election
- Released media statement

- supporting call for increased investment in health promotion for federal election
- Social media and website posts supporting election infographic and media statement for federal election
- Support for the FARE 'prevention first' election platform

APPEARANCES

- Appeared before Australian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health following submission. In May the final report was released citing AHPA's contribution a number of times (see http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health/Chronic_Disease/Report)

SUBMISSIONS

- National Alcohol Violence Inquiry
- Review of the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice
- Therapeutic Goods Administration Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling regarding a proposed amendment to the Poisons Standard for Nicotine
- National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions: second draft Consultation
- Draft Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan
- Draft WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2017-2021 Consultation (WA Branch)

- Review of NSW Healthy Schools Canteen Strategy (NSW Branch)
- NSW Inquiry into Childhood Overweight Obesity (NSW Branch)
- City of Perth's proposed Transport Strategy (WA Branch)
- Gaming Machine Arrangements Review (Vic Branch with PHAA)
- SA Department of Health's Public Health & Clinical Systems Review and face-to-face meeting with the reviewers. Of note the released report included a recommendation for an increased focus on health promotion and the re-establishment of a Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Branch (SA Branch with PHAA).

LETTERS AND RESPONSES

- To QLD Premier requesting the Government resume control over water fluoridation across the state (QLD Branch with PHAA)
- To Minister for Health regarding reducing childhood obesity (NSW Branch)
- To Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, calling on the Government to investigate sugar tax options
- To new Minister for Health John Day (WA Branch)
- To Minister of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services about the release of the State Health and Wellbeing Plan (Vic Branch)

- To Department of Health & Human Services re Health Promotion & Prevention Investment Project (Vic Branch)
- To NT Primary Health Network strongly advocating for change associated with the timeframes imposed by the Australian Government for PHNs to complete needs assessments (NT Branch)
- To WAAFL, Fremantle Dockers, and West Coast Eagles regarding Mac for a Match offer (WA Branch)
- Regarding alcohol advertising on Transperth 'school special' bus routes (WA Branch)
- Response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence (Vic Branch)
- Response to the Place-based Primary Prevention Discussion Paper, and potential opportunities for health promotion at a state level (Vic Branch)

COLLABORATION

- Participation in Health Leaders Parliamentary Roundtable regarding National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia (AHPA Director)
- Research into government investment in preventive health - financial partner with FARE and LaTrobe University.
- Participation in range of activities with CAHA related to Climate and Health
- Development of 'healthy voting' information by branches in lead up to state elections
- AHPA representation in expert consultations on the reform of the NSW Nutrition Criteria being conducted by the NSW Ministry of Health (NSW Branch President)
- Participation in the AHPC Forum on Chronic diseases in Australia (Vic Branch President)
- Participation in advisory group on paper for the Premier about the state of public health in South Australia (SA Branch in partnership with SACOSS and the Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity)
- Setup of a Local Action Group in the South West of WA (WA Branch)
- Request for meeting with Minister for Health and senior representatives to discuss government's policy platform on health promotion and preventive health (NT Branch)
- Participated in a Food-EPI workshop which focused on reviewing and prioritising policy in the area of health food environments (WA President and Board Director).

Partners at the national level include: PHAA; Croakey; the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA); People's Health Movement; Australian Health Care Reform Alliance; National Alliance for Action on Alcohol; National Primary and Community Health Network; Lowitja Institute Health System Coalition in support of Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Social Determinants of Health Alliance (SDoHA) on issues of mutual importance. We also worked with FARE (the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education) and supporters through the Prevention First Campaign. Branches of AHPA also undertake significant local advocacy on local issues of importance, often in partnership with others.

GOVERNANCE

The board has engaged a consultant to develop a national advocacy framework that will ensure consistent, evidence based advocacy on agreed priority areas. The aim is to maximise AHPA's ability to influence national health promotion issues within existing resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

A STRONG AND RESPONSIVE PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND FUTURE PLANNING

During 2016 we continued to work with NFPAS to centralise and further streamline our administration processes. In 2016 the fee structure was updated and the fees for individuals slightly increased (after a number of years without any increases). The new structure and inbuilt incentives applied for both new members and for membership renewal. We offered a discount on buying a two year individual membership.

We identified a range of governance activities for 2016 including completion of a governance timeline and planner, a range of new policies and risk register for association activities. We developed a branch mergers policy which was an imperative as two branches (Tasmania and ACT) have not had sufficient numbers to operate viable branches. As a result the Board approved a policy on Branch Mergers to be fully implemented in 2017. Changes were also made to the Constitution to make it easier for smaller branches to form a Branch Committee and to update some of the wording. A meeting of Branch Treasurers was held with the national Treasurer to ensure a consistent approach.

The AHPA Board has a responsibility to ensure AHPA is a sustainable organisation and able to represent, promote and build the health promotion profession and advocate for good health. The amount and scope of work required to achieve this is considerable and arguably difficult to sustain.

The Board met in Adelaide in November for its annual face-to-face meeting to discuss strategic issues and progress activities from the operational plan. At this meeting the Board committed to trialling new strategies of operational practice to support the implementation of its strategic plan. These will assist the Association to scale up AHPA's advocacy activities and reduce the day to day burden on our volunteers. The Board resolved to develop an investment plan to support our activities and engage additional administrative support via an expression of interest.



To support our collaborative working, the Association has drafted an MOU to work in greater partnership with the Public Health Association of Australia. It is anticipated that this will be finalised and signed by both organisations in 2017.

With so much work to do and multiple national committees a call was made to encourage members to get involved in the membership, communications or advocacy committees. Around 12 people responded, a pleasing result!

Branch Presidents met monthly to share ideas, work on issues collaboratively and contribute to national policies and projects including website content, Corporate Image Policy, the National conference and professionalisation. During the year the group developed a consistent approach to the loading of jobs and events on the website.

Strategies to assist in a unified approach to AHPA operations included: Presidents working on a policy and induction kit for branches (to be finalised in 2017); a rationalised email system; a common filing taxonomy and centralised storage system for documents and modified banking procedures for better security. The online registration system for events is assisting in streamlining professional development activities.

Professional development opportunities are the 'bread and butter' of the AHPA branches. Through the Branch Presidents' Committee there was increased sharing of ideas for professional development and joint activities. Scholarships continue to provide assistance for members to attend conferences and join in other professional development opportunities.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PROMOTION

The WA Branch is leading the Association in the implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan. Based on the feedback regarding the WA plan, exploration of a national plan has been mooted for 2017. This will complement and build on work to better engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and organisations and to determine the value of the work of the Association for those individuals and organisations.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander committee has been on hold whilst new arrangements are determined. In accordance with the Association's values of equity and social justice the Board seeks to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health promotion practitioners to direct the next phase of efforts to continue this important work. We continue to canvas members, past and present about the best way to achieve this. The Board welcomes expressions of interest from those who are passionate to make a contribution to this work.

Discounted membership rates continue to be provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members to facilitate engagement in the work of the Association. The Association continued to work with Healthway to provide funded Health Promotion Scholarships for three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members in WA. The NT Branch facilitated a journal club meeting in 2016 in collaboration with the Australasian Evaluation Society related to ethics in Indigenous health promotion contexts.

The Association, via the WA Branch also delivered a Health Promotion Short Course through Curtin University for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in health along with non-Indigenous people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health promotion.

The 2016 Conference Organising Committee worked hard to deliver the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pre-Conference Workshop prior to the National Conference in Perth with a stellar line up of speakers including: Troy Cook (Wirrpanda Foundation); Robert Mullane (WA Aboriginal Environmental Health Program, WA Health); John Gregg (National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation); and Dane Waters (Health Communication Resources Inc.). Sean Nannup delivered a stirring Welcome to Country. The full day session had a focus on showcasing the work of positive Indigenous projects and organisations that have made a difference in communities. The workshop was well attended and received positive feedback. In 2016 the Association resolved to co-sponsor the First Nations Suicide Prevention World Leadership Dialogue at the World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne in 2017, working closely with Scientific Committee member Summer-May Finlay who is the PHAA acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Vice President and co-convenor of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Interest Group.

COMMUNICATION AND MEMBERSHIP

In February 2016 the new AHPA website was launched and well received. Credit goes to all those who contributed and to Technology Matters, AHPA's website provider. Our analysis shows fairly steady numbers since the website launch with more visitors staying on pages longer. Some 64% of visits to the website are from new visitors showing a continuing interest in the organisation. The website has been a fantastic communication tool to share advocacy efforts at national and at Branch level, share member profiles, and be a 'go to' place for job and events. We have updated information on our partners, and we also have a YouTube site and hope to add more to that over time.

Each Branch contributed to Twitter activity resulting in steady numbers of tweets and growing followers and reach. For the 2016 year AHPA sent out 266 tweets, with a monthly average of 22 tweets with a high of 68 during the national conference in Perth. We averaged 69 new followers and 84

mentions a month. The Infographic developed by AHPA provides a great visual for tweeting and our top tweet, earning 9,761 impressions, was:



Late in 2016 the Membership Working Group and Communications Working Group were amalgamated. This allows greater support for attracting and retaining members, as well as communication with our members, partners and focusing our advocacy efforts. This amalgamated group will also work closely with the AHPA's National Accreditation Organisation PR and Communications Committee.

A national Communiqué was sent to members on a quarterly basis and timely emails informed members on important issues or relevant outcomes

of the Association. The Board also endorsed a new Corporate Image Policy to ensure all communications by AHPA are professional and reflective of the Association.

Glen Paley Memorial Award

The Glen Paley Memorial Award was established to recognise individual achievement within AHPA, contributing to its mission of "Leadership in Health Promotion". The Award provides an opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution and commitment of Board and Branch Committee members, to the operation of the Association and its membership. The inaugural winner in 2016 was Melinda Edmunds who impressed the judging panel with her passion and proactivity for health promotion and the Association.

BRANCHES

AHPA has been working towards more harmonised activities including professional development and capacity building across our Branches. This has been in part to leverage off the good work happening in specific jurisdictions as well as to provide support, learnings and better infrastructure across the Association. This has occurred via the provision of scholarships to all branches for the national conferences; implementation of the national mentoring program, work towards a number of national webinars and participation by Branch Committee members in a number of national activities. This consolidation and streamlining will continue in 2017 including reviewing constitutional requirements and financial arrangements.

The South Australian Branch hosted a successful careers/networking event, in collaboration with ANZALS (SA). The New South Wales Branch conducted a members' survey better understand members' needs and set strategic priorities for the Branch. The WA Branch continued to provide its AHPA Graduate and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Promotion Scholarships Program, funded by Healthway. The Northern Territory Branch facilitated two journal club meetings throughout 2016. The Victorian Branch worked in partnership to implement a successful political advocacy seminar. A range of awards were given in WA, Qld, SA and Vic including President's awards, student awards, a Primary Health Care Practitioner award, mentoring and leadership awards.

OUR BRANCHES

STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

TASMANIA AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

A process is underway to ensure members in both jurisdictions are supported by other branches. In November 2016 the Board adopted a Branch Mergers Policy to guide this change.

VICTORIA

2016 was a great year for the Victorian Branch Committee with a number of new committee members joining. As always it's fantastic to have the engagement and advice of regional and rural committee members to ensure that we aren't just 'Melbourne focused' in our work. We look forward to the continued support and feedback from Branch members particularly as we move into the exciting phase of Health Promotion Practitioner registration.

Professional Development

With this in mind, we have taken to filming events and professional development where possible to make it accessible to regional and rural colleagues and other AHPA members around Australia. We first tried this at the Political Advocacy seminar which we ran in partnership with the Public Health Association Australia in April. The screencast of this event is available on the AHPA website. Jane Martin, Obesity Policy Coalition and Ben Hubbard, former Chief of Staff to Julia Gillard were the presenters. The Student Careers Night remains a really well attended and valuable forum for students. This is just one of the ways we engage with universities and students, presenting the annual Deakin University AHPA Student of the year award and being present at

careers events at both Monash and Melbourne Universities.

Advocacy

Victoria remains lucky to have bilateral political support for health promotion and a workforce that hasn't been as harshly impacted by cuts as other states and territories. We are still mindful of the importance of highlighting the role that health promotion plays and this year have corresponded with the Minister of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services about the release of the state Health and Wellbeing Plan and its Outcome Framework. We also submitted a response to the Place-based Primary Prevention Discussion Paper, and the potential opportunities for health promotion at a state-wide level.

Committee Members

- David Towl (President)
- Melissa Colosimo (Vice-President)
- Ruth Klein (Treasurer)
- Angela Vidic (Secretary/ Administration)
- Stephen Bendle
- Bronwyn Moore
- Owen Pietsch
- Joanna Schwarzman
- Renata Spiller
- Lucy Wickham

NORTHERN TERRITORY

From the President: as this is my last report as AHPA NT Branch President I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for your support throughout 2016. I look forward to a prosperous and exciting year ahead for the AHPA NT Branch.

Advocacy

The AHPA NT Branch has been involved in various advocacy activities throughout 2016. The change of government in the NT provided a unique opportunity to advocate for greater investment in health promotion. In late 2016, we requested a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss the government's policy platform on health promotion and preventive health. Meetings with senior representatives within the Department of Health are also arranged for 2017. Two local radio interviews occurred that related to healthy food programs in remote communities and smoking legislation and regulations in the Darwin city precinct.

Professional Development

The NT Branch has facilitated two journal club meetings throughout 2016. One was held in collaboration with the Australasian Evaluation Society. This related to ethics in Indigenous health promotion contexts. The other meeting had a theme of 'online as a health promotion setting'. Both events drew on content from the Health Promotion Journal of Australia to encourage members to debate and discuss contemporary health promotion issues.

IUHPE National Accreditation Organisation Committees

Four AHPA NT members were selected and have commenced participation on the various committees that have been established to roll-out AHPA's national accreditation process. This is a fantastic effort from a small Branch and an exciting time for health promotion in Australia.

Scholarships

Ben Christie was awarded a national scholarship to attend the National AHPA Conference in Perth in April 2016. The NT Branch continues to provide scholarships for members and encourages members to contact the Branch to discuss support required to attend conferences.

AHPA Mentoring Program

Throughout 2016, many AHPA members based in the NT have been involved as both mentees and mentors through the national mentoring program. This has often involved mentee-mentorship partnerships that have crossed state-territory boundaries and contributed toward the expansion of national professional networks. The Branch thanks Dagmar Schmitt for representing the NT Branch on the Mentoring Program Committee.

National Engagement

Dagmar Schmitt commenced as a National Board Director in 2016; Cat Street and Rudie Marshall-Lang have represented the NT Branch on the Membership and Communications Working Group; and James Smith represented the Branch on the Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation Committee (REET), assisted as Associate Editor of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia and as an AHPA representative on the Scientific Committee for the World Congress on Public Health.

Committee Members

- James Smith (President)
- Priscilla Boucher (Vice President, from April 2016)
- Cathy Malla (Treasurer, until October 2016)
- Ben Christie (Treasurer, from October 2016)
- Rudie Marshall-Lang (Secretary, from April 2016)
- Dagmar Schmitt
- Megan Scolyer
- Alana Court
- Catherine Street

NEWS SOUTH WALES

The NSW Branch has had a productive year. We were pleased to award a number of scholarships, deliver a number of professional development events, and undertake advocacy activities for members and health promotion more broadly. Thanks to our committee and branch members who continue to support us.

Professional Development

The NSW Branch awarded three scholarships to attend the Australian Health Promotion Association's National Conference in Perth: James Kite and Amy Bonnefin received the Branch Scholarships, while Elsa Mangan was the NSW member who received AHPA's National Scholarship. The Branch also organised a webinar presentation from internationally renowned academic, Dr Becky Freeman, on advocacy entitled Public Health Advocacy: Not just for media tarts. This was open to AHPA's national membership. The presentation was very well received.

Communication

The weekly NSW e-bulletin continued throughout the year, keeping members informed about job and study opportunities, relevant events and courses, and new resources.

Governance and Membership

The NSW Branch AGM was held on May 5, 2016 via webinar. In order to understand the needs and expectations of members, NSW Branch conducted a members' survey in early 2016. The survey results were used by the Branch Committee to set strategic priorities for the Branch, including increasing member involvement in advocacy initiatives. Two membership drive initiatives were also employed in 2016, with one targeting students and another targeting members of the NSW Government's health promotion workforce.

Advocacy

The Branch was engaged in a number of advocacy actions throughout the year, with a particular focus on overweight and obesity prevention. This included making a submission to the NSW Inquiry into Childhood Overweight and Obesity, calling on the government to introduce a number of initiatives on active travel, marketing of junk food, sugar-sweetened beverages, and the social determinants of health. We also took advantage of international news around the introduction of a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in the United Kingdom by writing a letter to then Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, calling on the Government to investigate this option and to advocate for it federally. Further, AHPA NSW participated in the Expert Advisory Group on the NSW Government's Food and Nutrition Criteria for NSW Healthy Food Provision Policies and made submissions to the review of the NSW Healthy Schools Canteen Strategy.

Committee Members

- James Kite (President)
- Karen McPhail-Bell (Vice-President)
- Suzanne Gleeson (Secretary)
- Li Ming Wen (Treasurer)
- Alex Metse
- Chris Rissel
- Denise Fry
- Jennifer Evans
- Julia Dray
- Kate Reakes
- Norah Ansey
- Philayrath Phongsavan
- Freya MacMillan (joined August 2016)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A note from the President: AHPA SA would not be possible without the work of our strong, energetic committee. I extend my thanks to our wonderful committee members who have worked diligently throughout the year. I also take this opportunity to thank our members for their ongoing commitment to AHPA. I have thoroughly enjoyed working in my new leadership role and I look forward to the continued growth and development of the Branch in 2017 and beyond.

Partnerships

Partnerships are central to health promotion. AHPA SA's membership of SACOSS continues to keep us involved in advocacy especially for those with least power and hence the worst health outcomes in the South Australian community. In 2016 we also enjoyed working closely with the ANZALS and PHAA SA Branches and look to extend and consolidate these relationships in 2017 where possible.

Advocacy

In 2016 we undertook some important advocacy work with our partners to support a greater focus on health promotion and prevention in South Australia. We are pleased to be part of an advisory group that is working on a paper for the Premier about the state of public health in South Australia. The group is led by SACOSS and the Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity. Also noteworthy is an advocacy opportunity that arose in August 2016 when SA Health commissioned Highland Health Consulting to undertake an independent review of the department. We worked closely with PHAA SA Branch to contribute to the review via a written submission

and face-to-face meeting with the reviewers. In our correspondence with the department, we highlighted our concerns about past cuts to health promotion funding and emphasised the need to strengthen existing public health initiatives. We also advocated for an identifiable focus on health promotion and disease prevention in the department. Following the release of the reviewers' report in December, we were very pleased to note a recommendation for an increased focus on health promotion and the re-establishment of a Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention Branch.

Professional Development

In October, we hosted a successful careers/networking event, in collaboration with ANZALS (SA). The event was entitled 'Creating Health and Wellness' and focused on health promotion career opportunities outside of the traditional health sector. We used the Ottawa Charter action areas as a framework for organising our event, to prompt consideration of less obvious health promotion opportunities that might exist. We had 40 people attend in total, including a range of fantastic industry professionals, and we received a lot of positive feedback from students.

Social Media

AHPA SA began its social media journey by joining Facebook in March 2014. A public page was created to interact with the wider community and a closed group was created to improve communication between AHPA members. The public page currently had 658 followers at the end of 2016, increasing from 277 at the beginning of the year. The closed group has 40 members.

Future directions for AHPA SA include improving communication between internal members, using it as a tool to provide members with details of upcoming events or opportunities and increasing AHPA's public presence within South Australia.

Scholarships

We were pleased to support several members who attended the 23rd AHPA National Conference in Western Australia. Melanie Smith, Janette Young and Liana Bellifemini were the proud recipients of scholarships to attend this event that focused on "Connecting the Dots: From Tradition to Innovation – Making it Matter". The AHPA SA Branch also seeks to support the professional development of members. Two rounds of Professional Development Scholarships were offered in 2016 to support the South Australian Health Promotion workforce in developing specialised skills and understandings required for high quality health promotion. The Professional Development Scholarships are each valued from between \$50 to \$500 for the purpose of attending a workshop/conference or other events of relevance to professional development in Health Promotion. In 2016 we awarded two of these Scholarships to student members Kristen Stevens and Hannah Rohrlach.

Awards

The SA Primary Health Care Practitioner Award is an award shared between the Public Health Association Australia SA Branch and AHPA SA Branches. In 2016 Michele Herriot, Director of Michele Herriot Health Promotion Consulting, was recognised for her outstanding contribution to Primary Health Care in South Australia.

Committee Members

- Stefania Velardo (President)
- Aimee Brownbill (Vice President)
- Shelley Ratcliffe (Treasurer)
- Liana Bellifemini (Minutes Secretary)
- Peter Fugaro (Correspondence Secretary)
- Janette Young
- Gabrielle Fisher
- Gisela Van Kessel
- Annabel Axford

QUEENSLAND

Special mention to a couple of great Qld Branch members - a big thank you to our former president and longstanding Executive member Elisha McGuinness. Elisha has committed over seven years to the Qld Branch, and we are very sad to lose her wisdom and support. Another special mention to Nikki Percival who played a big role in leading the Branch for most of 2016, before moving to New South Wales. Thank you Nikki for your innovative ideas and leadership in preparing the Qld Branch to be strong into the future.

Governance

This year the Queensland Branch took the time to review our operational plan and develop governance systems to support the Branch into the future. The Branch has also been actively developing processes to support succession planning and general Branch operations. As a Branch we are looking to increase the number of awards and scholarships provided to students and health promotion practitioners in Queensland.

Advocacy

AHPA Qld, in collaboration with PHAA QLD Branch, wrote to the Queensland Premier requesting that the Government resume control over water fluoridation across the state.

Student engagement

Queensland Branch was supported by two students from Sunshine Coast University – Sheila and Rama. Thank you both for volunteering your time to work on our Branch directory. This

is an important document that will support the Branch to have a central repository for key contacts both within AHPA and externally. The Branch has developed a student register and hopes to assign students to projects of interest. The Branch is working to engage our student membership more into the future.

Participation

Queensland had seven Branch members selected to sit on committees of the AHPA National Accreditation Organisation and Branch members also participated in the Branch Presidents' Committee, FARM, REET, the Communications and Conference Working Groups as well as the Mentoring Committee. Nikki Percival sat on the Scientific Committee for the World Congress on Public Health.

Committee Members

- Nikki Percival (President/Vice President)
- Barbra Smith (nee Kurkowski) (President/Vice President)
- Sarah Glendon (Secretary)
- Katelyn Winkworth (Treasurer)
- Anita Cowlishaw
- Jane Taylor
- Sue Devine
- Eva James
- Elisha McGuinness

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In 2016 the WA Branch proudly hosted the 23rd National AHPA Conference. This was a big undertaking, with many Committee members participating in the Local Organising Committee and relevant subcommittees. The WA Branch also supported two WA members (Lorena Chapman and Tina Pendlebury) and the Branch President (Melinda Edmunds) to attend the 23rd National AHPA conference.

In addition to hosting the 23rd National AHPA Conference the Committee continued to run the WA Branch business as usual. This is just a snapshot of some of key activities that the WA Branch Committee achieved throughout 2016.

Leadership and Governance

The Leadership Group coordinated two half-day planning sessions for the WA Branch Committee, one of which was specifically focused on commencing development of a regional engagement strategy to improve engagement and activities in the regions, and the other concentrated on new partnerships. The Finance Audit and Risk Management sub-committee continued to write our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and developed sponsorship guidelines to manage requests for AHPA (WA Branch) sponsorship to guide the allocation of funds based on reach, membership potential, engagement with partners and strategic intent.

Scholarships

In 2016 the Leadership Group completed an Expression of Interest process to engage a new Scholarships Coordinator to coordinate the Health

Promotion Scholarship Program, funded by Healthway. Two graduate recipients and three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recipients undertook five scholarship projects in 2016.

Member Services

Our Member Services sub-committee continued to provide weekly information to our members in 2016 by email, whilst streamlining and strategically reviewing what communication our members see and how often.

Capacity Building

The WA Branch partnered with the Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA (PHAIWA) to host the 2016 Healthway Visiting Fellow Dr Gary Fooks. This involved organising a seminar 'Can we work with industry, getting to know industry tactics'. Additional events included the annual Student Careers Showcase run in collaboration with the Public Health Association of Australia (WA Branch), and an advocacy and social media training webinar presented by Kristy Schirmer (founder of Zockmelon), hosted in conjunction with the SA Branch. The sub-committee also assisted in the upscaling of the WA Branch mentoring program to roll it out at a national level and matched 13 WA mentees with mentors.

Advocacy

The Advocacy and Partnerships sub-committee continued with our workforce advocacy campaign which aims to protect health promotion and prevention in WA. Work to date included the development of proactive advocacy materials for members to use such as a poster to help explain health promotion and the setup of a Local Action Group in the South West of WA.

Reactive advocacy opportunities were undertaken (with our partners when appropriate) including: a welcome letter to the new state Health Minister John Day, commenting on the City of Perth's proposed Transport Strategy; the Draft WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2017-2021; alcohol advertising on Transperth 'school special' bus routes, and the AFL's 'Mac for a Match' promotion.

Awards

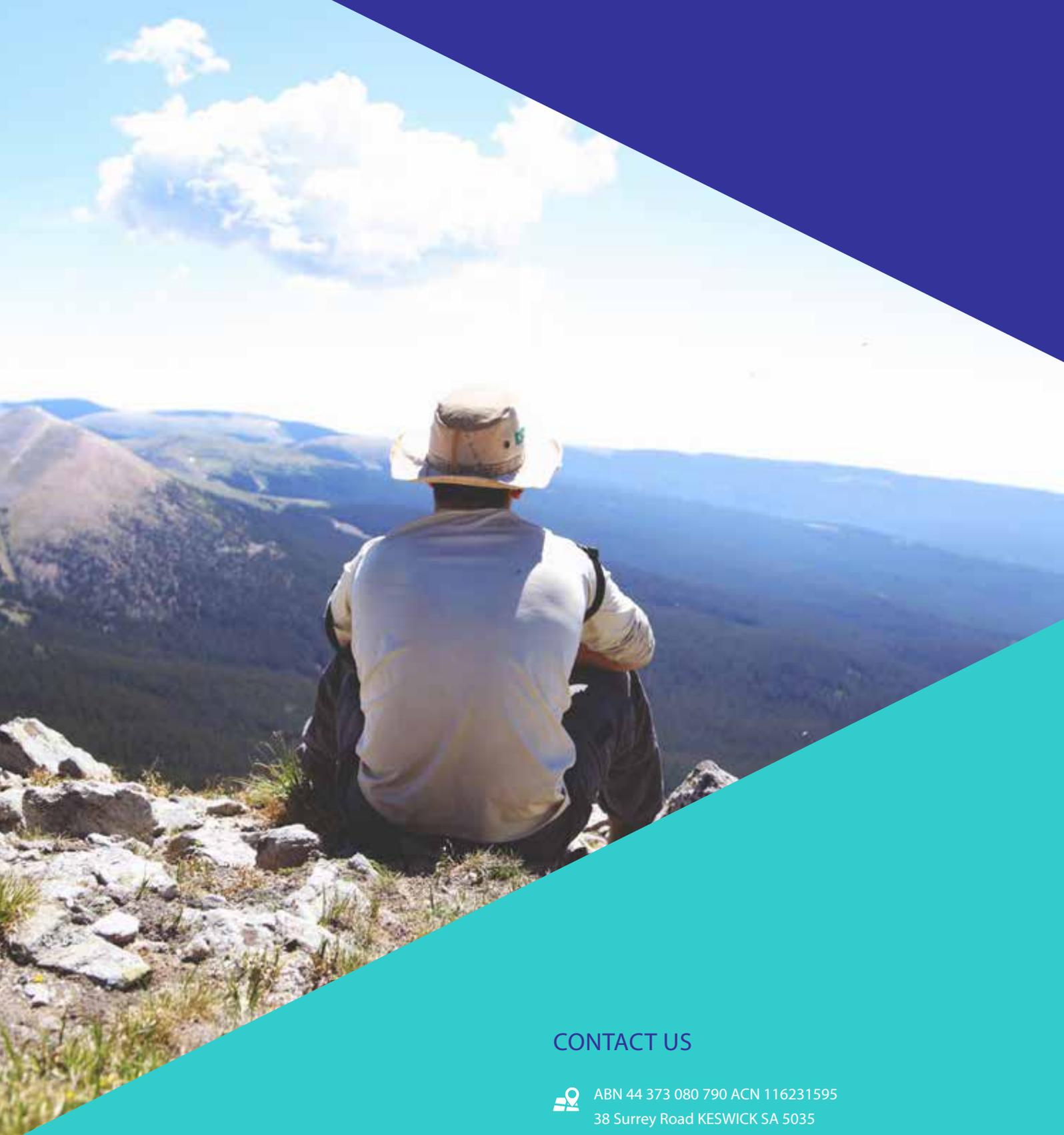
At the 2016 AGM, the Committee presented four awards to recognise outstanding individual and organisational achievement in health promotion within WA. Award recipients were:

- Leadership in Health Promotion: Associate Professor Jonine Jancey
- Outstanding Mentor in Health Promotion: Chantelle Jeffery
- Excellence in Health Promotion Practice: Dr Gina Trapp (Highly commended: City of Kwinana's Healthy Lifestyles Team)
- President's Award: Lorena Chapman (Highly commended: Liz Bradshaw)

Committee Members

- Melinda Edmunds (President)
- Lorena Chapman (Co-Vice President)
- Courtney Mickan (Co-Vice President)
- Liz Bradshaw (Treasurer)
- Sarah Di Cristofaro (Secretary)
- Chantelle Jeffery
- Kirsty de Blanken
- Karen White
- Joanna Steel
- Nicole Toia
- Chloe Townsend (since August)
- Carl Heslop (since August)
- Vivienne McMahon (since August)
- Malena Della Bona (since August)
- Leisha Aberle (until July)
- Melissa Davis (until July)





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