



Australian Health Promotion Association

News from the West

July 2019

The Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) is the only professional association specifically for people interested or involved in the practice, policy, research and study of health promotion.



Editors

Carl Heslop
Kirsten Beckingham

AHPA (WA Branch) Committee 2018

Leadership Group President:

Carl Heslop

Vice President:

Kirsten Beckingham

Secretary:

Briony Williams

Treasurer:

Qasim Rehman

General committee members:

Alicia King

Joanna Collins

Katie Schubert

Luke van der Beeke

Melissa Evans

Sharon Swaney

Monique Lobb

President's Report

Becoming WA Branch President this year is a true honour and I hope I can fill the (two) big pairs of shoes that have been left behind by Courtney Mickan and Lorena Chapman.

Before agreeing to take on the role, I did consider the practicalities of the Branch having a President based outside the metropolitan area. Taking on the challenge of leading the Branch committee was however made a lot easier by the excellent committee that we have for this year and their ability to support me within this role. It is a great team to be working with and one that you, as AHPA members, should be very proud of.

The outgoing committee has left a gap in terms of experience and tenure – but I thank all those members for their dedication to the Branch as a committee and for their ongoing support after stepping down. Thank you to Courtney Mickan, Lorena Chapman, Karen White, Liz Bradshaw, Kirsty de Blanken, Rudie Marshall-Lang, Daniella Brown, Laima Ziedars, Bethany Martin and Liz Connor.

The WA Branch comes with a strong history and pedigree; something your committee must use as an inspiration and guide, rather than a crux. As custodians of the Branch, we have a strong obligation to build on the fantastic work that has come before us, while ensuring we remain relevant as leaders and advocates within Health Promotion, and areas of intersection and association. There is definite flexibility and scope within Health Promotion that we, as a Branch, must harness and utilise. Thinking outside-of-the-box in terms of collaborations and partnerships is a must – health crosses many areas – so must we.

Your Branch Committee is a cross-section of our membership: practitioners, researchers, early career, not-so-early career, students and volunteers. We have established leaders and budding advocates. The next Branch or National President is already amongst our ranks – they are just yet to recognise it within themselves.

As a committee, we represent the Branch – but our actions as a committee reflect the members of our association. We need your passion, your movement, your desire to make change. We need your direction and support in taking on the issues that matter to you. Without activation from you, our members, there is the risk that we become stagnant and reactive. What issue burns for you? What do you need your Branch to do?

Tell us. Connect with us. Join us. The WA Branch is as strong and as active as its members – use it as a vehicle for your passion.

*Carl Heslop
Presidents, AHPA (WA Branch)*

AHPA WA HEALTHWAY SCHOLARSHIPS

This program is a significant opportunity provided not just to AHPA Members, but to organisations within WA.

The ability to hire qualified practitioners for worthwhile projects value-adds to many organisations providing leadership and supervision experience for host organisations. Our new scholarships coordinator, Myra Robinson supports our recipients on behalf of the branch.

Luke Ringin has been supported by Healthway to move out of the metropolitan area and take his skills to the regional area. This doesn't just build recipient's capacity, but also the capacity of regional host organisations.

Luke has had the opportunity to engage with localised advocacy, to lobby members of Parliament for the area, connect with community, appear in the media and implement his own program. The skills that can be fast-tracked through exposure in regional areas are fantastic in future career development.

"I am completing my scholarship with the WA Centre for Rural Health in Geraldton, where I have established and am working on the Men Against Violence project. This project follows the 'Change the Story' framework, and I am engaging men through sports clubs in conversations about family violence prevention.

The framework and Men Against Violence project address the gendered drivers of family violence, promote gender equality and challenge traditional notions of masculinity.

To address local clubs and highlight the messaging of the project, a Men against Violence round of the Great Northern Football League (GNFL) was created. This round was created in partnership

with Geraldton Sporting Aboriginal Corporation (GSAC) and was supported by all 6 local male politicians with a presence in the region."

"With the assistance of Health Communication Resources, to promote the round and inform the Geraldton community of what we are trying to achieve with the Men Against Violence round, Adrian Bartlett, the Executive Officer of GSAC and I jointly participated in a number of media interviews using multiple platforms including radio and TV.

The positive response from the GNFL round and the praise we have received from local community members has been incredible. There is obviously a need for such a program in Geraldton, so I sincerely thank AHPA, Healthway and WACRH for giving me the opportunity to establish and lead such a program." Luke Ringin



AHPA WA HEALTHWAY SCHOLARSHIPS

Courtney King has been based at the Telethon Kids Institute and supported by Healthway to provide support on the extension of the current Supporting Family Conversations (SFC) project.

This project is conducting the formative work for a future intervention and has provide Courtney with excellent opportunities to build skills in planning, evaluation, research and collaboration.

“I am undertaking my project within the Health Promotion and Education Research team at the Telethon Kids Institute. My project is an extension of the current Supporting Family Conversations (SFC) project, which is a school-based intervention designed for parents of Year 7 students, addressing underage alcohol consumption.

I am conducting formative research to extend the project’s target group by exploring the challenges faced and support needed for parents of Year 9 and 10 students, regarding underage alcohol use. This will provide direction for adapting the SFC project in an age and stage appropriate way.

To achieve this, I am conducting a literature review of parent’s attitudes and behaviours towards underage drinking, a scoping review of existing interventions, as well as focus groups and interviews with Year 9 and 10 parents, relevant experts and key stakeholders.

Now approaching the final phase of my scholarship, I am currently finishing my last focus groups and interviews before starting to analyse the data and synthesise the findings.

I have thoroughly enjoyed completing my scholarship so far and have gained a wide range of knowledge and practical skills. Receiving this scholarship has been highly rewarding and has given me an invaluable opportunity to enter and grow within the health promotion workforce.”

Courtney King



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THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE: 2019 INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH & WELLBEING CONFERENCE

THINKING. SPEAKING. BEING

Larissa Perry is working at the Telethon Kids Institute within the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) project. Larissa was supported by AHPA WA and Healthway to attend the Lowitja Institute Conference as part of her professional development plan. Hear about Larissa's experience attending this fantastic conference:

The Lowitja Institutes' International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference was held on the lands of the Larrakia people (Darwin, Australia) from 18th to 20th June 2019. This year's theme, Thinking. Speaking. Being was inspired by the United Nations' declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The conference commenced outside Darwin Convention Centre on Monday 17th June with a spectacular welcoming ceremony that included welcome to country, traditional dance and songs and an exchange of gifts. Over 700 delegates from around the world, most of whom were Indigenous, experienced numerous keynote speeches, presentations and workshops during the 3-day conference.

I was fortunate to attend this conference through Telethon Kids Institute and the AHPA (WA Branch) Health Promotion Scholarship Program, funded by Healthway (2019 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship recipient). Along with my colleague, Carol Michie and eight Elder/Co-researchers from the Ngulluk Koolunga, Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) project; Aunty Muriel Bowie, Aunty Millie Penny, Aunty Charmaine Pell, Aunty Doris Hill, Aunty Oriel Green, Kerry Hunt, Uncle Albert McNamara and Uncle Allen Kickett Snr.

Throughout the conference, we attended various keynote speeches and presentations that I considered interesting and relevant to gain knowledge and skills in research. I came away with new ways of thinking and being in the world and feeling inspired to learn Noongar language in more depth. Wednesday night included the gala dinner with great company, delicious food and excellent entertainment; it was a fun night! On the final day of the conference the Elder/Co-researchers and I presented our projects to an attentive audience, with added interest shown by representatives from the University of Sydney. All good things come to an end and we were homeward bound soon after our presentation. Overall, I believe the conference was thought-provoking, truthful and inspirational, and I am truly grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend.



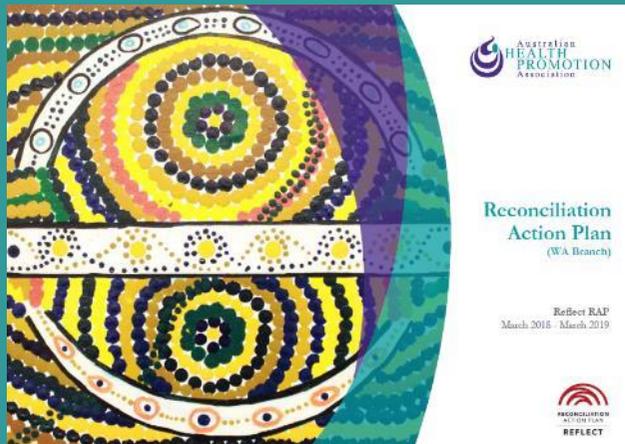
Reconciliation

In 2019 the AHPA WA Branch launched its Reconciliation Action Plan. Since its launch the WA Branch has worked honestly and earnestly to ensure that this document represents more than paper – but meaningful action.

For this reason, it was decided that the AHPA WA Branch should focus on consolidating and strengthening its actions within the Reflect stage of the Reconciliation Action Plan; rather than progress to the next stage.

This is reflecting our commitment to ensure that we are meeting our targets and aims within the plan and our desire to ensure that before progressing to the next plan phase, that we are actively reflecting our plan.

A copy our plan, featuring the incredible artwork by Dr Mick Adams can be found on our website.



We will keep you updated with our progress!

New Committee

We are going to take our time introducing our new committee members – there are quite a few of them. To make sure they are delivered in bite sized pieces, here is a little bit about a couple of them to start you off.

I'm Katie Schubert, Healthy Community Coordinator at the Town of Victoria Park.



I love working in the health promotion industry. Being able to daily assist and influence community members to live a happy and healthy life is extremely rewarding and enjoyable. I joined the AHPA WA Branch to better connect with my industry peers and broaden networks, learnings and opportunities. I also wanted my organisation to be better connected and aware of current trends and advancements in the industry.

Sharon Swaney - Puppet Project Officer with Immunisation Alliance WA



After a career change, I graduated from Curtin in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion. In 2018 I returned to complete an Honours year, where I researched the issue of vaccine hesitancy, a topic that has become of great interest to me. In my previous life I was a business owner, living in the Pilbara region of WA. I currently divide my time between two part-time roles; the first being Puppet Project Officer for the Immunisation Alliance of WA; the second as Health Promotion Officer for the Amanda Young Foundation. I have one adult son, who graduated on the same night as me and is now a school psychologist.

Active Advocacy

The main roles of the Advocacy within the WA Branch is to contribute to raising awareness of the WA Branch as a recognised organisation who can provide expertise, information and resources on health promotion policy and programs; comment on proposed policy, legislation and programs (and other relevant documents) to advocate for sound health promotion practice in WA; and develop and maintain partnerships to increase then profile of the WA Branch.

Submissions

The WA Branch has been actively involved in several reactive advocacy campaigns contributing well researched submissions to a local government smoking ban by-law decision and the WA State Government's Safe Access Zones for Abortion Services.

These submissions form just a small part of what we want to achieve in advocacy as a Branch - but we need your help. Do you have an area that needs attention from the AHPA WA Branch? Why not support us and help us prepare submissions, plan some active advocacy or join in what we are already doing?

We are now turning our heads towards the WA Government's Climate Health Inquiry and need members to help us prepare a submission that is meaningful, evidence based and presents our unique perspective as Health Promotion practitioners.



CLIMATE HEALTH WA INQUIRY

In March 2019, the Hon Roger Cook, Minister for Health, announced an inquiry into the impacts of climate change on health in Western Australia (WA).

AIMS

The Climate Health WA Inquiry was established under part 15 of the Public Health Act 2016.

The aim of the Inquiry is to review the current planning and response capacity of the health system in relation to the health impacts of climate change, and make recommendations for improvement with respect to climate change mitigation and public health adaptation strategies

ACTIVATE

Health Promotion practitioners are well placed to respond to this emerging health issue and we have an obligation to step in and provide our professional perspective.

The AHPA WA Branch is putting a call out to all our members to engage with this critical health issue and help provide guidance to the Climate Health WA Inquiry via a Branch submission.

The process will be led by members of the WA Branch Committee - but we need your assistance in creating a well-crafted and informative submission.

Our Branch is only as strong as our members - and we need your help. We invite all interest members to get in touch via adminwa@healthpromotion.org.au

The full Terms of Reference can be found [here](#)



Professional Development Opportunity:

Strengthening health promotion practice through evaluation

Joanna Schwarzman and Ben Smith

Evaluation of health promotion strategies can provide the much-needed practice-based evidence that is required to tackle population health priorities and reduce health inequities.

This **FREE** workshop is an opportunity to bring together researchers and health promotion practitioners and managers to discuss evaluation practices, determinants and priorities.

WHEN & WHERE: 30th August, 9:30am – 12pm
Curtin University, Bentley plus live Webinar
Register [here](#)



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(WA Branch)**

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Did you know we are on Twitter & Instagram?

We now have 5,295 followers on Twitter. The Branches take turns hosting the twitter account each month to ensure we keep you up to date on relevant health promotion information from the twittersphere.



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