

Farewell to a Remarkable Man



In Memory of Paul Pholeros.

Paul presenting his keynote address in Cairns at AHPA's 20th National Conference in April 2011: Health Promotion ...Strengthening Action.

AHPA, along with the rest of Australia and many others in several countries, mourn the death of a great man: Paul Pholeros who died in RPAH in Sydney on the 1 February 2016.

The rapid exchange of emails, the outpouring in the social media and in the press, bears witness to the fact that Paul was, in many ways, many things to many people. To all of us though, he was a great man; a humble, intelligent, convivial, outstanding achiever who in 2007 was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his persistence and outstanding service to the health and well-being of the Indigenous population of Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

AHPA knew Paul as a humanitarian, an architect, an educator, a tireless worker for social justice, and an advocate for the disadvantaged. Here was a person who instinctively understood the importance of addressing the social determinants of health - housing, poverty, community building and inclusion – and taught that respect for, and action within disadvantaged communities, not only mattered but worked.

Many of you will know of Paul from his keynote addresses at several of AHPA's National Health Promotion Conferences – Alice Springs, Cairns, Adelaide - and his presentations to NSW Branch members at local seminars and I am sure at many other events, too countless to recall. He was transformational in his thinking, inspiring in his presentations and had endless energy for advocating and acting for those most in need.

While I was remembering Paul I re-watched his June 2013 TEDX talk - "[How to reduce poverty? Fix Homes](#)". If you missed his presentation – take a look.

Paul, for the legacy you have left for all of us and the contributions you made in so many ways and in all the right places, we thank you. We have tremendous respect for you and your work.

To reiterate Richard Le Plastrier's words: What an example. What a tour de force. What a life. What a loss.

Written by Suzanne Gleeson on behalf of AHPA's Board and members