

11 April 2017

The Honourable Roger Cook MLA  
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health  
13th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Deputy Premier,

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Health Promotion Association Ltd (AHPA®) (WA Branch) to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Mental Health in Western Australia (WA).

AHPA is the only professional association specifically for people interested or involved in the practice, policy, research and study of health promotion. The World Health Organization defines health promotion as the process of enabling people to increase control over the determinants of health and thereby improve their health. Health promotion not only embraces actions directed at strengthening the skills of individuals but also actions directed towards changing social, environmental, political, and economic conditions to alleviate their impact on populations and individual health.

The importance of health promotion in improving health outcomes in WA cannot be underestimated. We recognise that delivering the new children's hospital is a priority for health in WA at this current time but we ask that you commit to focussing on prevention following the opening of the hospital. The AHPA (WA Branch) supports continued investment in long term funding of health promotion and prevention initiatives to see positive health outcomes for West Australians.

Our AHPA (WA Branch) WA State Election 2017 Health Promotion Score Card revealed that WA Labor provided evidence of support to a number of health promotion priorities including: providing funding options to support local governments to develop and implement Public Health Plans, and supporting reduced exposure to alcohol promotion by removing advertising from public transport and other sites, including at major sporting grounds ([https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/images/docs/WA-Branch/advocacy/AHPAWA\\_StateElectionGuide\\_Web.pdf](https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/images/docs/WA-Branch/advocacy/AHPAWA_StateElectionGuide_Web.pdf)). We commend WA Labor for these commitments.

The health promotion priorities that received no commitment or only partial support from WA Labor were:

- Implementation of policy to transition WA to renewable energy to contribute to broader international effort for effective action on climate change.
- Implementation of mandatory kilojoule labelling in quick service restaurants.

- Increasing restrictions on tobacco sales including setting a target to cap and then reduce the number of WA tobacco licence holders over the next 4 years, and increasing the annual tobacco sellers licence fee.

The AHPA (WA Branch) has a diverse range of members and is able to play a vital role in helping the WA Government achieve better health promotion and prevention outcomes. A comprehensive approach to prevention will not only benefit WA economically but will enable higher levels of community engagement, multi-level interventions and strong partnerships. Importantly, this will benefit populations susceptible to poor health outcomes in WA.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss how the AHPA (WA Branch) can work with you to make health promotion a priority and improve the health of West Australians during your term.

Please contact us at [wabranch@healthpromotion.org.au](mailto:wabranch@healthpromotion.org.au) to arrange a suitable time.

Yours faithfully,



Courtney Mickan  
Co-President  
AHPA (WA Branch)



Lorena Chapman  
Co-President  
AHPA (WA Branch)

