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MEMBER COMMUNIQUE

MAY 2016

Australian HEALTH PROMOTION Association

The AHPA® branches, Board and its committees work hard throughout the year to support and promote the health promotion profession and advocate for good health promotion policy, research and practice. This Communiqué provides an opportunity to keep you informed about what's been happening since the End of Year Update in 2015 with reference to the AHPA® Operational Plan.

A highly skilled & sustainable health promotion workforce

Conferences: The Connecting the Dots: Tradition to Innovation, Making it Matter conference is not far away now with the program available at: http://ahpa2016.com.au/program/. There is a great range of keynotes and many interesting sessions and don't miss the workshops on Sunday 19th June - http://ahpa2016.com.au/workshops/. Registrations are growing steadily but we still hope to see more people supporting AHPA's major conference. At least one conference scholarship per branch has been provided over the last three years.

AHPA® is active in planning for the World Public Health Congress 2017. Board Member Andrew-Jones Roberts is representing the Board on the Conference Organising Committee. AHPA® is also ably represented on the Scientific Committee with Dr Nikki Percival (QLD 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.
See the Congress website for more information http://www.wcph2017.com/

Mentoring: A national approach to mentoring has now been adopted allowing sharing of resources and access to a larger pool of mentors. The Mentoring Committee is currently assessing the 50 plus applications seeking mentors. Outcomes should be available soon.

Professional Development: Local professional development opportunities are the touchstone of the work of AHPA® branches and advocacy has been a big focus. NSW held a short advocacy seminar as part of their annual members' meeting, conducted by Dr Becky Freeman from Sydney Uni and a joint SA-WA webinar: "Advocacy, health promotion and social media - slacktivism or real action?" was also held in May.

Jane Martin, Obesity Policy Coalition and Ben Hubbard, former Chief of Staff to Julia Gillard were the presenters at an AHPA® Victoria advocacy event. The event provided plenty of opportunities for networking and questions and the event and Q&A session were recorded and will be available on the AHPA® website. The NT Branch has held two networking events leading to the establishment of a journal club. These have focused on 'ethics in health promotion' and 'ethics in Indigenous health promotion practice' respectively. Members of the Australasian Evaluation Society have also enthusiastically participated in these events.

Professionalisation: With AHPA® now approved by IUHPE as the National Accrediting Organisation the process of accrediting health promotion practitioners is moving apace. An online provider is being sought, as applications will be completed online. Communications, training, business model and regulatory issues are all being progressed. It is hoped the process can commence in the second half of 2016. AHPA's work on professionalisation will be presented at the IUHPE Rio conference. Check out the CompHP website if you want to see the competencies we'll be using: http://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/comphp. These are very aligned to those developed in Australia.

Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation: March saw the release of the inaugural 'virtual' issue of the HPJA on the topic of Climate Change and Health Promotion. This makes our journal more widely available and raises awareness on this important issue. Visit the website to see more http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/293/aid/20759.htm! We have also received lots of positive feedback on the special issue on Ethics in Health Promotion, edited by Prof Annette Braunack-Mayer from the University of Adelaide and A/Prof Stacy Carter from the University of Sydney. The REET committee is also exploring the future publishing needs of the journal. Editor in Chief Associate Professor Jonine Jancey led a successful webinar at the end of 2015 on writing abstracts for the conference. The next virtual issue will be released mid-year, so look out for that.

A strong and responsive professional organisation

Most branches have held their AGMs in recent months with changes to committees – welcoming new members and saying goodbye to those who've worked hard for their branch. The new treasurers teleconferenced with the Board treasurer recently to ensure sharing of information.

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 a dozen people responded, a pleasing result! The WA Branch has also noted a lot of interest lately with increased emails from those interested in volunteering their time for the conference and the committee.

Membership Fees-LOCK IN 2015 PRICES

As you know, AHPA® operates as a very lean organisation. We receive no government funding for our central functions, relying in the main on volunteers to operationalise our strategic vision.

This means that our membership continues to be extremely important in order for us to undertake our work.

In 2016, as a one off special offer to celebrate 30 years of the Ottawa Charter we are offering an Individual membership at a special rate of "two years at the 2015 price, locking in $380 for 2 years".

It is pleasing to see that many members have chosen this option and locked in ther membership, allowing us to have a greater voice on issues affecting health promotion and our practitioners.

Effective advocacy for health promotion issues

Advocacy initiatives: AHPA® has established a national Advocacy Committee and is gearing up for the election. All branches include a focus on advocacy, some with local advocacy committees. Advocacy conducted so far in 2016 includes:

- AHPA® Victoria Response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence
- A joint submission between the Australian Health Promotion Association (Victorian Branch) and the Public Health Association of Australia (Victorian Branch) to the Gaming Machine Arrangements Review
- Letter from Vic Branch to Department of Health & Human Services re Health Promotion & Prevention Investment Project
- Two AHPA® directors appeared before the Australian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health in March following a submission made last year. 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
- AHPA® NT wrote to the NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN) strongly advocating for change associated with the timeframes imposed by the Australian Government for PHNs to complete needs assessments. They argued that short timeframes limit the potential for genuine stakeholder engagement, thus reducing the quality and potential to improve population health outcomes across the NT.
- AHPA® QLD, in collaboration with PHAA QLD Branch, wrote to the QLD Premier requesting that the Government resume control over water fluoridation across the state.
- James Kite, AHPA® NSW Branch President is currently representing AHPA® in expert consultations on the reform of the NSW Nutrition Criteria being conducted by the NSW Ministry of Health.
- Signing on to the Statement on Coal Plants from Health Organisations around the world in anticipation of the G7 Meeting in May
- Letter from NSW Branch to Minister Skinner regarding reducing childhood obesity
- Board submission to the Federal inquiry into alcohol-fuelled violence

Website: The new website was launched in March with positive feedback from many. Advocacy and news feeds through to the front page now so keep up to date by checking that out. Our thanks to Technology Matters for all their work in developing our new site. We'd love to you to provide some information about your work in health promotion and membership of AHPA®.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR NEW WEBSITE?
https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/

Thank you to all Board members, Branches and Committee members for their great work thus far in 2016. To our supporters, partners and especially our members- thanks for your ongoing committment to AHPA®. We can't do it without you!

Contact Us: members@healthpromotion.org.au