

[WWW.HEALTHPROMOTION.ORG.AU](http://WWW.HEALTHPROMOTION.ORG.AU)



**END OF YEAR UPDATE**

**2016**

**As 2016 draws to a close, we thought it was timely to share with you, our members and supporters, some AHPA highlights.**

### ***Professionalisation***

After several years of groundwork by the AHPA Professionalisation Committee and extensive consultation with members, AHPA successfully applied to become the National Accreditation Organisation (NAO) for Australia for the IUHPE Health Promotion Accreditation System. As the NAO, AHPA will be responsible for 'IUHPE Health Promotion Practitioner' registration in Australia. People who successfully apply will be registered for 3 years. During the 3 years registered practitioners are required to undertake Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activities. Completing adequate CPD will be the basis for re-registration.

Following IUHPE notification in February we continued to work on the development of governance arrangements, information management systems, recruitment of committee members and communication with AHPA members and other stakeholders. In May, members of the Committee presented at the AHPA 2016 National Health Promotion Conference in Perth. The session was attended by approximately 70 people. In addition to learning about the progress of the NAO initiative there was a productive 'Q&A' session that provided an opportunity to discuss how the registration system would operate in Australia.

To support the administration of the NAO, AHPA has developed an 'on-line application' process. The system will be integrated with the AHPA website and will be used to receive and assess applications and accept payment from people applying to be registered. NAOs are required to establish a formal governance structure. In October we sought Expressions of Interest from AHPA members interested in the:

- NAO Management Committee
- NAO Assessment Sub-Committee
- NAO Appeals / Complaints Sub-Committee
- NAO Continuing Professional Development Sub-Committee
- NAO Public Relations and Communication Sub-Committee.

We received a very positive response. Recommendations for membership of committees are currently being considered. **For more information regarding the IUHPE Accreditation System see [www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/practitioner](http://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/practitioner)**

### ***Board Operational Update***

The AHPA Business Model Working Group has been investigating the most appropriate business model for the organisation. In the last quarter of 2016 this work has involved the Board taking action to explore its strategic relationships in greater depth. The Board met in Adelaide in November for its annual face-to-face 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. We are excited about these decisions which we will share with you in the new year. These will assist us to scale up our advocacy activities and reduce the day to day burden on our volunteers. In 2017, the working group will continue to: document lessons learned as part of the preparation of reports; critique its processes; and review its Terms of Reference in light of recent Board decisions .

## **Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation**

REET is pleased to announce Board member Dagmar Schmitt has joined the Committee, and will be coordinating a digital dissemination strategy to increase knowledge exchange with our members. A select tender has been sent to four publishing houses to determine the HPJA publisher from 2018.

CSIRO provided the very exciting results of our second HPJA Virtual Issue (VI) **Looking Back, Looking Forward** with introduction by Professor Chris Rissel. Briefly, the downloads of the 11 papers we chose to include in the virtual issue for the 4 months prior to the VI compared to the 4 months these papers were free access during (June-Sep) were: **4 months prior to the VI: 321 downloads VS 4 months during VI: 2237 downloads.** This was a 7-fold increase in downloads. Look out for two more Virtual Issues in 2017.

Annabel Axford and Dr Drew Carter were presented with the Ray James Memorial Award for their article ***Building workforce capacity for ethical reflection in health promotion: a practitioner's experience.***

In late 2016, AHPA entered into a research partnership with the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE), Alzheimer's Australia, National Heart Foundation of Australia, and Kidney Health Australia to commission La Trobe University to investigate preventive health funding in Australia compared with international practices, to improve models for investment in health promotion in Australia.

A reminder that the HPJA impact factor is now 1.231, so we hope to see you publishing your work with us soon. Look out for the Evaluation special edition for HPJA which will be out next year.

## **Spotlight on the SA Branch**

The Branch hosted a successful careers/networking event in October, in collaboration with ANZALS (SA Branch). The event was entitled 'Creating Health and Wellness' and focused on health promotion career opportunities outside of the traditional health sector. We had 40 people attend, including a range of fantastic industry professionals, and we received a lot of positive feedback from students.

Michele Herriot was awarded the 2016 SA Primary Health Care Award (on behalf of AHPA SA Branch and PHHA SA Branch). She was presented her award in October.



## **Congratulations**

The WA Branch has awarded three 2017 AHPA Healthway Health Promotion Scholarships.

**CORIE GRAY**, Collaboration for Evidence, Research and Impact in Public Health Corie will investigate the barriers and enablers to HIV testing in culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Perth. **(Graduate scholarship)**

**ASHLEIGH PARNELL**, Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia Ashleigh aims to better understand the industry tactics used in Corporate Social Responsibility policies, seeking to understand the motivation for unhealthy food and beverage companies to sponsor WA sports teams. **(Graduate scholarship)**

**CATHERINE BOLTON**, Child and Adolescent Community Health Catherine will develop a standardised directory of referral agencies that offer programs for young people and/or their families which address social issues, for use by school health service child health nurses in secondary schools. **(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship)**

## ***Effective advocacy for health promotion issues***

The Association has, via the Board, branches, members and partners, participated in a range of advocacy activities in the last half of 2016. These have included:

- Federal election advocacy included the updated AHPA infographic titled Treatment Costs | Health Promotion Saves and media release calling for increased federal government investment in health promotion programs.
- Becoming a signatory to the Australian Health Policy Collaboration including a Statement of Commitment to Chronic Disease Prevention in Australia, the release of Australia's Health Tracker Report Cards a submission on the Healthy Tasmania Strategy.
- Ongoing support of CAHA strategy and action including representation at the Health Leaders & Parliamentarians Roundtable on Climate Change and Health in Canberra on 28-29 November.
- In September, the SA Branch worked closely with PHAA to contribute to the SA Department of Health's Public Health & Clinical Systems Review, highlighting the need to strengthen existing public health initiatives and have an identifiable focus on health promotion and disease prevention.
- This year has seen a change of government in the NT and the branch has undertaken some advocacy towards a greater focus on health promotion and prevention in emerging policy platforms and commitments. It is pleasing to see that this work is slowly coming to fruition, with health promotion featuring prominently in the new government's Healthy Strong Communities discussion paper.
- The WA Branch has been busy as well, responding to the Draft WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2017-2021, writing a partnership letter to WAAFL, Fremantle Dockers, and West Coast Eagles regarding the Mac for a Match offer and planning advocacy strategies for the 2017 WA State Election.

## ***Spotlight on the NT Branch***

The Branch continued to meet on a bimonthly basis throughout 2016. We have often combined branch meetings with professional development and/or informal networking opportunities. This is important for a small branch like ours, where our membership has remained relatively static at around 30 members.

We have held a couple of journal clubs throughout the year – one relating to ethics and health promotion (particularly in relation to Indigenous health promotion contexts); and the other in relation to digital media and health promotion. These sessions were both well attended. We use content from the Health Promotion Journal of Australia to lead these discussions, usually with 3-4 key articles of interest. We are exploring opportunities to partner with the Australasian Evaluation Society to continue the journal clubs as a joint venture throughout 2017. We also held a professional development session involving feedback from members that attended the National AHPA Conference and the IUHPE World Health Promotion Conference. This proved to be a useful strategy for discussing opportunities and challenges facing health promotion in the current socio-political climate. Thanks to Dr Selma Liberato from Menzies School of Health Research for joining us in this event.

The NT Branch also supported the Charles Darwin University career expo, providing advice about health promotion pathways through the Bachelor of Health Science. This course has only been delivered over the past 4 years and the first graduates are starting to emerge which is very fulfilling. AHPA is keen to remain on the Course Advisory Group in 2017.

## **Spotlight on the WA Branch**

The Branch reports a number of key achievements in the past few months:

- Partnered with PHAIWA to host 2016 Healthway Visiting Fellow, Gary Fooks
- Held a student careers showcase in partnership with PHAA (WA Branch)
- Developed a draft regional engagement strategy
- Held an AHPA (WA Branch) meeting in regional WA to support our four regional committee members
- Hosted the 2016 National Australian Health Promotion Association Conference
- Continued to progress our Reconciliation Action Plan
- Continued regular weekly job and events bulletins & monthly e-Newsletters
- Distributed a newsletter to all members
- Updated and endorsed the WA Branch Policy Compendium
- Announced three scholarships as part of the Health Promotion Scholarships Program funded by Healthway
- Sponsored the Notre Dame Bachelor of Preventive Health Practicum Award 2016

## **Update from the Branch Presidents**

The Branch Presidents meet by teleconference most months to discuss common issues. In the last quarter of 2016 we have begun reviewing progress against the operational priorities assigned to branches in the AHPA Operational Plan. We are working together to archive branch documents more securely on Board Effect using a common taxonomy and training has commenced.

State partnerships have been collated to complement AHPA national partnerships providing a comprehensive list for the organisation and helping inform a strategic response. Also we are getting closer to developing a comprehensive induction and policy manual building on high quality work done in Victoria and WA. Branch Presidents are keen to keep up to date with progress with Accreditation and Registration which will be of great interest to members. Informal sharing of challenges and successes helps make this group stronger and useful.

## **Did you know we are on Twitter & Instagram?**

We now have 2672 followers on Twitter. The Branches take turns hosting the @AHPA twitter account each month to ensure we keep you up to date on relevant health promotion information from the twittersphere.



To find AHPA on Twitter or Instagram, search for @AHPA\_AU and follow for daily updates, tweets, re-tweets, photos and all things health promotion.



## **Thankyou**

I would like to express my gratitude to the AHPA Board for their commitment to implementing the strategic vision of the Association. My sincere thanks to this group of steadfast individuals who give up countless hours, and without whom we would not have an association.

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

We will leave you this year with T.S. Elliot-

*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language. And next year’s words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.”*

Gemma Crawford  
President

Australian Health Promotion Association

**CONTACT US:**  
**MEMBERS@HEALTHPROMOTION.ORG.AU**