A note from the President....

Welcome to another edition of our Communiqué. This edition is packed full of activity and updates from both the Board and Branches.

Since our last Communiqué we held our AGM and have voted in the 2017-2018 AHPA Board. I would like to welcome Jason Davis, Joanne Walker and Janice Lane to the Board. I would also like to extend my thanks on behalf of the Board and membership to outgoing Directors Kate Vrljic and Melanie Smith for their time and contributions to AHPA.

We have moved into full swing in 2017 with work being completed by our Project and Administrative Support Consultant and a Policy and Advocacy Consultant. The Board is currently working to implement a number of recommendations in 2018 for both members and advocacy priorities.

The REET Committee undertook a EOI process for the new Editor in Chief of the HPJA. This process has successfully been completed and you can read about it in this Communiqué.

We have also progressed to a pilot stage of the health promotion practitioner registration system and look to implement this broadly in 2018.

It is that time of the year when the Board meet face to face to do solid planning for both the rest of the year and the future of AHPA. I look forward to updating the membership with progress after this meeting.

Gemma Crawford
National President

Farewell Peter Trebilco OAM
by Suzanne Gleeson

It was with great sadness that I was told of Peter Trebilco’s death (Saturday 28 October 2017). Peter was an outstanding man in many, many ways. A man of great erudition who had many strings to his bow including research and practice interests in community health, preventive medicine, health promotion, medical education and bioethics, to name but a few. He worked tirelessly for over forty years in health promotion, public health – always in the service of others.

I knew Peter as a friend, advisor, mentor, coach and colleague. I feel so, so, very sad at the news of his death.

Peter lived a long and fruitful life and was a very worthy and proud recipient of an OAM for his outstanding service to the health and well-being of many.

On behalf of AHPA’s Board and members, farewell Peter. You are missed.

Research, evaluation & evidence translation

The Board of the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA®) together with the Research, Evaluation and Evidence Translation (REET) Committee would like to announce effective from January 01, 2018 the publication of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia will be housed with Wiley Blackwell Publishing.

We would like to specifically thank Dr Brietta Pike, CSIRO for her support and commitment demonstrated to increasing the profile and reach of the Journal over the last 18 months. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of CSIRO more broadly to our Journal and to AHPA. We have valued their contribution to growing and disseminating the evidence base for health promotion in Australia.

The AHPA Board and REET Committee would also like to announce the appointment of a new Editor in Chief and Editorial team lead by Associate Professor James Smith and Professor Jenni Judd. Their term officially commences in January, 2018 and we will be most appreciative of your patience as we transition platforms and the Editor in Chief/ Editorial Team.

The Board and REET would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Editor in Chief Associate Professor Jonine Jancey and the Editorial Team for their leadership over the past four years and the growth of the HPJA.

Gemma Crawford
National President

Did you know the HPJA is on Twitter? Why not follow along at @HealthProm_J_Au?
**Membership pricing & benefits survey**

*We want to hear from you!*

The Board is undergoing a review of our membership structures and benefits as part of our strategic planning process. With the aim of hearing your thoughts we have prepared a short survey for members to complete. You can access the survey here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AHPAMembershipPricingBenefitsSurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AHPAMembershipPricingBenefitsSurvey).

The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete and will remain open until **Wednesday 22 November 5PM AEST**. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey.

**A highly skilled & sustainable health promotion workforce**

*Update on health promotion practitioner registration*

AHPA has been endorsed by the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) as the National Accreditation Organisation (NAO). This means health promotion professionals across Australia will have the opportunity to apply to become a Registered Health Promotion Practitioner.

The NAO governance structure has been established through the formation of an NAO Management Committee overseeing the AHPA Board of Directors. The NAO Management Committee coordinates four sub-committees comprising of AHPA members who have been working throughout 2017 to establish the registration system. The Assessment Sub-committee has been briefed by IUHPE on assessment procedures and requirements and are working to get the registration website functioning and ready for applications. The first cohort of ‘pilot’ applicants will begin submitting their applications and progressing through the process before the end of October 2017. This will allow any glitches in the system to be fixed prior to applications being opened to all health promotion practitioners in 2018.

The Continuing Professional Development Sub-committee are preparing examples of the types of activities that will attract CPD points to make it easy for registered health promotion practitioners to identify and record their progress towards achieving their required CPD. The Appeals Sub-committee have been working to establish an appeals and complaints process as well as a process map to ensure those involved in the registration process are aware of time frames and points of contact.

The Communications Sub-committee have been preparing for the launch of the registration process by developing consistent branding materials and implementing a communication strategy to ensure AHPA members and other stakeholders are aware of how the registration program is tracking.

Further updates will be posted on the AHPA website as they become available.

For further information, please contact Andrew Jones-Roberts, Chair, AHPA NAO Management Committee
**Effective advocacy for health promotion issues**

The Board has received recommendations from Micaela Drieberg, Policy and Advocacy Consultant. We are committed to finalising our advocacy priorities for our members and will be working on this at the upcoming Board face-to-face meeting. In the meantime we have been involved in a number of other activities including:

- Writing a letter in support of Marriage Equality
- Paul Klarenar participated in the Prevention 1st Forum launching a new economic report by La Trobe University’s Professor Alan Shiell, Preventive health: How much does Australia spend and is it enough?, at Parliament House.
- Justine Leavy attended and contributed to the Global WHO PA Consultation
- AHPA was a proud partner of the 2017 World Congress on Public Health and the World Leaders Dialogue on Suicide Prevention for First Nations people held in Melbourne in April 2017. A key outcome from the Dialogue was a First Nations Wellbeing Statement.
- AHPA contributed to the development of the Australian Food Policy Index 2016
- AHPA called on the major political parties to get serious about promoting health and support the health of all Australians
- AHPA was pleased to be a signatory to the Australian Health Policy Collaboration who released the Australian Health Tracker report on August 01

**Branch Presidents’ Committee update**

The AHPA Branch Presidents meet bi-monthly to facilitate a coordinated approach to AHPA matters. This is also a forum to support new presidents and share the wisdom of those who are more experienced. We’ve been:

- Tracking progress of the health promotion professionals registration system through regular attendance of the chair of the NAO Committee overseeing the process
- Training all branches in using BoardEffect to set up a system for filing documents securely
- Discussing advocacy and how best to progress nationally and at the branch level – this will also inform the Board’s deliberations, as well as sharing different approaches
- Progressing a consistent approach to the Acknowledgement of Country
- Monitoring the rotational responsibility of branches to tweet
- Seeking to develop a consistent approach to advertising of jobs and regular e-bulletins
- Sharing workforce development strategies and associated resources
- Considering changes to the Constitution that were approved at the AHPA AGM which impact on branches

We still have work to do on the policy manual and tools to make it easier for new branch members. We also oversee the Mentoring Committee who are finalising the 2017 mentoring process.
Ray James Memorial Award

Ray James Award winners Dr Kristi Heesch and Michael Langdon reflect on their award and what it means to them and their work.

We were delighted and surprised that our work has been selected for the Ray James Memorial Award. This award recognises a journal article for excellence and innovation in health promotion research published during the previous year in the Health Promotion Journal of Australia. In light of all the journal articles published in the Journal throughout 2016, it is a great honour to have our article, ‘The usefulness of GPS bicycle tracking data for evaluating the impact of infrastructure change on cycling behaviour’, recognised for excellence and innovation in health promotion research.

The article described the use of a new technology for assessing cycling behaviour. New technologies and innovations appear regularly, and people often get very excited about the potential of them. But this excitement and enthusiasm must always be tempered with scientific inquiry, research and investigation to determine their practical application and usefulness. The awarded research aimed to provide a scientifically-rigorous examination of a new technology in order to judge – beyond its entertaining and amusing aspects -- its practicality and usefulness.

When reviewing the list of previous winners of this award, we noted common themes of: research and practice, practitioner’s experience, demonstration projects, assessments and interventions. It is an honour to have our research recognised alongside that of Professor Billie Giles-Corti. Her work in both research and practice in implementing and improving walkability is well known and respected by the Transport, Built Environment, and Health Promotion industries and researchers.

We would like to acknowledge Ray James for his work as a member of the research team that developed and revised health promotion competencies for health promotion practitioners. The common themes of his professional work included: innovation, willingness to risk trialling new approaches, mentoring early-career professionals, and helping others beyond the call of duty. Similarly, there are many people working in the emerging field of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport and the Built Environment who have similar goals. In upcoming editions of the Journal we hope to bring you news of these initiatives and more evaluations of results. The prize money from the Award will be going entirely to our lead academic at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to assist with the publication of new research. This research will be examining health-related outcomes of creating supportive environments in Queensland for active transport.

We would like to acknowledge all the other authors who submitted articles to the Journal during 2016, especially practitioners in non-health industries. For practitioners who do not work in a public health related organisation, finding time and obtaining approvals to write and publish an article is going beyond the call of duty. This article was made possible only with the support of an enthusiastic academic, who was willing to take industry research and turn it into an academic publication. This journal article is a testament to what can happen when proactive academics are willing to work with industry to share knowledge and learnings for the greater benefit of the industry.

This research project described in the awarded paper was a combined effort across multiple teams within the Queensland Department of Transport & Main Roads (TMR) and demonstrates what can happen when people can see potential in technology or a new innovation. In 2014 the TMR Engineering & Technology Branch (E&T) Traffic Engineering Team and the E&T Corporate GIS and Spatial Data Team in conjunction with the TMR Cycling Program undertook a project to ‘determine the feasibility of using bicycle GPS tracking data to improve the quality and reliability of bicycle participation data’. In 2016, the findings of the project were written into a scientific manuscript by Dr Kristi Heesch, an academic in Queensland University of Technology’s School of Public Health and Social Work, and Michael Langdon, Senior Advisor (Cycling and Walking), Engineering & Technology Branch, TMR, and subsequently published in the Health Promotion Journal of Australia. In 2017 this article was awarded the Ray James Memorial Award.
**Spotlight on the Branches**

**Northern Territory**

The advocacy skills and knowledge of NT Branch members were given a valuable boost recently, thanks to extensive insights of Dr Melissa Stoneham, Director of the Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia (PHAIWA).

Mel shared some fantastic examples of advocacy done well (and not so well)! It was an afternoon of interesting conversation about how to navigate and penetrate the advocacy space, with special consideration given to how to be an advocate employee within your organisation. Thanks to the workshop, confidence was high and the NT Branch provided comment on the issue of alcohol in the NT (below). A big thank you to Mel and everyone who attended.

Below are some fantastic take-aways from the advocacy session:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Critical to Advocacy</th>
<th>Internal Advocacy</th>
<th>AHPA Advocacy as a Government Employee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Know your objective – ultimate aim is policy change</td>
<td>- Be crystal clear about what you want changed and why</td>
<td>- Be aware to uphold relevant code of conduct i.e.: know what you are allowed and not allowed to say</td>
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<td>- Create a sense of urgency – what’s the risk of doing nothing?</td>
<td>- Communicate change well and thoroughly</td>
<td>- Be very clear you are commenting as a member of AHPA</td>
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<td>- Know how to argue the case i.e.: how can you reframe or counteract the strengths of your opponents arguments</td>
<td>- Always link the change to corporate aims, plans, documents</td>
<td>- Comment in your own time, not on work time</td>
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<td>- Never say “more research is needed” – we just about always have enough research – use it</td>
<td>- Be strategic, use colleagues in other departments who agree with the change, united front</td>
<td>- If called by the media, helpful to tell them that you’ll call back in 10 mins. Use this time to formulate your response. Who should comment – you or someone with more expertise? Does AHPA have a position on this? What are key messages? Call an AHPA member to discuss and hatch your plan</td>
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<td>- Don’t dwell on an issue – be solutions focused – what can you offer? When talking with politicians, always come prepared with costed options, and those that are cost neutral</td>
<td>- Identify critics of the change i.e.: work around them, if you can, remove the obstacles (people, systems, policies)</td>
<td>- Do not say anything that is not publicly available</td>
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<td>- Test your messages with children – if they don’t get it, start again…</td>
<td>- Build on the change, reassess, evaluate</td>
<td>- Focus on solutions</td>
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<td>- Much easier to advocate when you’re passionate about an issue – if you’re not passionate about it, don’t get in the boat!</td>
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<td>- Social media can be a tricky space – may need to develop a thick skin</td>
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<td>- Rally your coalition – who wants what you want? Safety in numbers…</td>
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New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory

The NSW/ACT Branch hosted a Housing and Health Seminar during Anti Poverty Week. Elyse Cain (Policy Lead, NSW Council of Social Services [NCOSS]), Jeff Standen (Manager, Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit, NSW Health), and Pamela Rutledge (CEO, Flourish Australia) together presented a picture of the impacts of housing on health, challenges, and potential solutions and opportunities.

The NSW/ACT Branch President James Kite and Vice-President Dr Karen McPhail-Bell wrote a blog 'A place to call home: housing and its influence on health' for our AHPA partner, Croakey. You can read the blog here:

https://croakey.org/a-place-to-call-home-housing-and-its-influence-on-health/

You can view a webinar recording here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLaMdKMTzcc&feature=youtu.be

Pamela Rutledge (left), Jeff Standen (centre) and Elyse Cain (Right) discussed the issues raised in their presentations as a panel
Queensland

The Professional Development, Sponsorship and Events Sub-committee surveyed members to tailor events and professional development opportunities to meet the needs of our members. As a result, a partnership with the Queensland Branch of the Public Health Association Australia was established and a student career showcase event was held on Thursday the 12th October. The Queensland Branch obtained sponsorship and financial contribution from the University of Queensland School of Public Health, the Nutrition Society of Australia, and Griffith University. The event allowed students and health professionals early in their careers to find out more about different careers in health promotion and public health. Five guest speakers, as well as a representative from Griffith University and the Queensland Epidemiology Group, attend the event, and the event was video-linked to students in Townsville and Cairns.

Special thanks go to:
- University of Queensland School of Public Health
- Nutrition Society of Australia
- Griffith University
- Queensland Epidemiology Group
- Guest speakers:
  - Danette Langbecker - PHAA executive member and Research Fellow
  - Josephine Ferguson - AHPA Committee member and Senior Health Promotion Officer
  - Leanne White - AHPA Committee member and Senior Health Promotion Officer
  - Bonnie Macfarlane - Queensland Epidemiology Group Chair and Advanced Epidemiologist
  - Anita Cowlishaw – AHPA QLD President and Strategic Policy Advisor

Further professional development opportunities are planned for early 2018, as well as sponsorship opportunities for our members.

The Advocacy and Communications Sub-committee established a Queensland Branch Facebook page and continues to send out fortnightly e-bulletins to the Queensland members to keep them informed of the latest information, research, resources, events and jobs.

The Queensland Branch Facebook page continues to grow, and plays an important part in our communications mix. It offers more frequent messaging and allows for two-way communication with our members and the public. The Sub-committee developed a Social Media Queensland Branch Policy and guides for committee members to actively contribute to the Facebook page. Also the Facebook page is moderated by Branch Committee members daily, with Facebook member posts daily, sharing reports, news stories and other items of interest to health promotion practitioners.

The Branch aims to build a community around its members and whilst it is still growing, it is already delivering positive outcomes. So far, the Branch has established a forum by which new members can introduce themselves and share common interests. The platform also allows members to ask questions and discuss topics. The Sub-committee monitors the Facebook groups demographics to track progress, encourage membership and provide better-targeted content in the future.

Come and join the conversation on our Facebook group at: www.fb.com/groups/AHPA.QLD
Queensland cont.

Additionally, the Sub-committee contributed to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee parliamentary inquiry into the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017. A written submission was submitted to the parliamentary committee on 3 June 2017 and a member from the Sub-committee spoke and contributed to the public hearing on 27 June 2017. In 2016, the Branch contributed a written submission and contribute to a public hearing during the initial work of the parliamentary inquiry regarding a health promotion commission.

The annual Ray James Memorial Award was established to honour the excellence and innovation in health promotion research published in the Health Promotion Journal of Australia. This year, the Ray James Memorial Award was presented to Dr Kristiann Heesch (a Queensland member) and Michael Langdon, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Government. Congratulations Kristiann and Michael!

Special thanks to all executive committee members of the Queensland Branch for their ongoing hard work and time.

Western Australia

The WA Branch reports a number of key achievements in the second quarter of 2017, including:

- A number of advocacy initiatives:
  - A letter was sent to the Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt about Alcohol Sponsorship in sport, prepared in conjunction with the Board.
  - A letter was sent to the WA Minister for Health and Mental Health Roger Cook offering AHPA's help to work with his office to make health promotion priority during his term.
  - A letter was sent to the Director General for the Department of Health Dr David Russell – Weisz about the recently updated Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2017-21.
  - Worked with the Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA (PHAIWA) to arrange advocacy training for health promotion professionals in the south west of WA. Advocacy has now been included as an ongoing agenda item at their local South West health promotion network meetings. Working on expanding to other regional areas.
  - Included a summary of the WA state budget and the implications for health promotion in one of our weekly member emails.

- Successfully obtained two more years of funding from Healthway to continue running the Health Promotion Scholarship Program
- Co-hosted the annual Student Careers Nights with the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) WA Branch, attended by 95 students, graduates and health promotion professionals.
- The WA Branch Peter Howat Award for Academic Excellence in Health Promotion was presented to 2016 recipient Joanna Collins from Curtin University.
- Participated in Healthway's new five-year strategic plan consultation process.
- Partnered with Healthway, PHAIWA and PHAA (WA Branch) to host a public lecture with Professor Carmen Lawrence, Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Change in the School of Psychology, The University of Western Australia, titled ‘Our relationship with the natural environment: What happens when we ignore it?’.
- Partnered with PHAA (WA Branch) to host a public lecture with Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, Chief Health Officer at Department of Health WA, titled ‘International responses to health crises in conflict zones: A personal view’.
South Australia

The SA Branch has been part of a consortium of leading public health expert organisations that recently called on the State Health Minister and Premier to reinvest in public health. As a first step, the consortium have sent an open letter to the Minister. The open letter can be accessed here https://www.phaa.net.au/documents/item/2401. PHAA issued a media release this week and which received some local media attention. You can access the media release here: https://www.phaa.net.au/documents/item/2405.

The SA Branch are currently working with our consortium partners to come up with more specific requests of government. Currently our three main targets are:

- investment in paid local government positions to support the implementation of public health plans across all South Australian councils
- increased commitment to Health in All Policies
- re-instate the position of a separate Chief Public Health Officer (distinct from the Chief Medical Officer role – the two are currently combine)

We will be meeting with Ministers (current and shadow) in early November and plan to conduct a public election forum in February and issue a public health election scorecard in March (scorecard in conjunction with SACOSS). This is part of our broader election strategy (upcoming state election in March 2018).

In October the SA Branch hosted an open state event on ‘Health Advocacy: How to get results’. We had a fantastic line-up of speakers: Mark Parnell (Leader of the Greens, SA Parliament), Rev Peter Sandeman (CEO, Anglicare SA), Professor Fran Baum (Foundation Director, Southgate Institute to Health), Dr Jennifer Bowers (CEO, Rural and Remote Mental Health), Ian Cox (CEO, The Hutt Street Centre) and Pas Forgione (Coordinator, The Anti-Poverty Network SA).

Branch President Dr Stefania Verlado and Vice-President Aimee Brownbill wrote a blog about the event for ZockMelon.


Pictured left to right: Dr Stefania Velardo (APHA SA President), Professor Fran Baum, Rev Peter Sandeman, Dr Jennifer Bowers, Ian Cox, Pas Forgione.
Did you know we are on Twitter & Instagram?

We now have 3,620 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.