

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing
Mark.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au

27/04/2022

Dear Sir,

RE: Health promotion matters this election

The Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA®) calls on your party to invest in the health of Australian communities.

Incorporated in 1990, the Australian Health Promotion Association is the only professional association specifically for people interested or involved in the practice, policy, research and study of health promotion. Our vision is for a healthy, equitable Australia, and our purpose is leadership, advocacy and workforce development for health promotion practice, research, evaluation and policy.

As the peak health promotion Association in Australia representing over 1000 members, our members represent a broad range of sectors including health, education, welfare, environment, transport, law enforcement, town planning, housing, and politics. They are drawn from government departments and agencies, universities, non-government organisations, community-based organisations and groups, private companies, and students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of strong structures and systems, the need for sufficient and sustained health and community funding, and the necessity of partnership approaches and meaningful community engagement to promote the health of all Australians.

The health promotion and prevention workforce is vital in developing and implementing strategies and policies to maintain community health and safety. Throughout the pandemic our workforce has been involved in critical actions including:

- leadership and participation in COVID-19 response teams;
- supporting priority population groups through food security initiatives, prevention of violence against women, social inclusion programs, mental health and wellbeing promotion, health literacy including vaccination and COVID-safety information for housing insecure populations; and
- conducting pandemic research with often marginalised, vulnerable or priority population groups.

The health promotion workforce addresses health inequities and the determinants of poor health. This work continues post-pandemic.

In this election we ask that you protect the health of Australians with equity and social justice through:

- 1. Appropriate funding for, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Australian Government's National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030.**
- 2. Overarching, strategic government leadership for health promotion and illness prevention beyond a focus on specific topics or particular diseases.**
- 3. A target of 5% of health expenditure towards health promotion and illness prevention.**
- 4. Health promotion and illness prevention workforce planning, training, professional development, accreditation and registration (including through the International Union for Health Promotion and Education National Accreditation Organisation).**

Further information about our vision for a healthy, equitable Australia is in our [Health Promotion and Illness Prevention Policy](#).

We look forward to hearing what your party is doing to address these key priorities and welcome an opportunity to meet with you.

Yours faithfully



Dr Gemma Crawford
President
Australian Health Promotion Association

