

THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PROMOTION ASSOCIATION CALLS ON ALL PARTIES TO MAKE HEALTH PROMOTION AND ILLNESS PREVENTION A PRIORITY THIS ELECTION.

HEALTH PROMOTION MATTERS

TIME FOR ACTION

ELECTION 2022

CHANGE

HEALTH PROMOTION MATTERS THIS ELECTION.

That's why the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA®) calls on parties to up their **commitment and their investment**. In this election we ask that parties 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

Strategic government leadership for health promotion and illness prevention beyond a focus on specific topics or particular diseases.

3

A target of 5% health expenditure towards health promotion and illness prevention.

4

Funding and support for health promotion and illness prevention workforce planning and training.

5

Professional development funding and support for workforce accreditation and registration.



ACTION FOR A HEALTHY, EQUITABLE AUSTRALIA

Health promotion is a critical pillar of public health. Health promotion goes beyond health care. This is because health is created and lived by people in their everyday life; where they learn, work, play and love.

Australia has integrated health promotion principles into its policies for more than 30 years. Our workforce has been vital in developing and implementing strategies to support community health and wellbeing. But there is more to do if we are to deliver on the promise of health promotion for the public's health.

We know that health promotion and illness prevention saves lives and money. But it is also the case that Australian investment in health promotion and illness prevention has progressively declined and lags comparator countries. Our future investment must reflect best available evidence on tackling underlying causes of ill-health and inequity. This requires sustained investment in programs that engage public, private and non-government organisations in and beyond the health sector.

Dr Gemma Crawford

President | Australian Health Promotion Association

ABOUT US

Incorporated in 1990, the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA®) 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, delivered through leadership, advocacy and workforce development for health promotion practice, research, evaluation and policy.

Our member-driven national Association represents over 1000 members and subscribers with branches representing each state and territory. 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.

HEALTH PROMOTION: NOW, MORE THAN EVER

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

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-19 safety information for populations facing housing insecurity; 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.



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