

28 July 2017

Dr David Russell-Weisz
Director General
Department of Health WA
189 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

By email: David.Russell-Weisz@health.wa.gov.au

Dear Dr Russell-Weisz,

Re: WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2017-2021

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA[®]) WA Branch to commend the work of the Chronic Disease Prevention Directorate Branch at the Department of Health WA in developing the WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework (WA HSPF) 2017-2021.

We are confident that this framework will contribute to strengthening health promotion action in Western Australia, across a broad range of stakeholders, for improved community health outcomes. As the framework notes, a comprehensive approach to prevention will benefit WA economically. Plus enable higher levels of community engagement, multi-level interventions, and strong partnerships. Importantly, this will benefit population groups susceptible to poor health outcomes in WA.

While we commend the release of the WA HSPF, we believe there are some areas for improvement that are worth mentioning. Most notably, the framework fails to provide a definition of health promotion or outline the foundational principles of health promotion as stipulated in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. Given that the WA HPSF intends to decrease the incidence of preventable chronic disease and injury within WA, it is imperative that the framework captures 'best practice' health promotion and provides users with an understanding of important role that health promotion plays in the prevention of chronic disease and injury.

We also note that the final framework does not seem to have been altered significantly from the draft version, despite the detailed feedback provided by our organisation. We would like to enquire as to why this is was the case, especially in relation to some of our key recommendations around the use of language and the focus areas of the framework.

The AHPA (WA Branch) has a strong and diverse membership across the state and is able to play a vital role in helping the WA Government achieve better health promotion and prevention outcomes. We will encourage, support, and build the capacity of our membership to implement the elements of the WA HPSF. With this in mind, we look forward to being considered as a key partner for the Department of Health WA in the area of health promotion moving forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on adminwa@healthpromotion.org.au if there is any way the AHPA (WA Branch) can be of assistance.

Yours faithfully,



Courtney Mickan
Co-President
AHPA (WA Branch)



Lorena Chapman
Co-President
AHPA (WA Branch)

CC: Professor Tarun Weeramanthri
Chief Medical Officer

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