



**Public Health Association
of Australia**
NSW Branch

Dr Denise Robinson
Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director General Population Health
NSW Department of Health
73 Miller Street
North Sydney NSW 2060.

Dear Dr Robinson

On behalf of the Public Health Association of Australia, NSW Branch, I am delighted to support the combined application by the NSW Department of Health for

1. accreditation of the NSW Public Health Officer Training (NSWPHOT) Program as a masters program
2. registration of the Department as a non-self accrediting provider in the higher education sector.

The NSWPHOT Program is widely respected and valued both in NSW and across Australia. Over the past 18 years it has made a significant contribution to the development of a vibrant public health workforce in NSW and NSW Health is to be congratulated for its sustained commitment to the Program.

The development of a skilled public health workforce able to support the health of the Australian population is a significant area of interest for the Association. The creation of workforces within the government health sector that are competent to meet both current and emerging public health issues is an important part of this capacity. Programs like the NSW Program make a unique contribution to building this capacity by preparing judgement-ready professionals who are able to apply their skills to a wide range of public health challenges.

Public Health is a multidisciplinary endeavour and the Association is the principal national voice for public health in Australia. The Association has a long-standing relationship with the PHOTP, which has a multidisciplinary intake, through representation on the previous principal advisory committee and by contributing to consultations that have informed developments. The Association's annual conference offers an important venue for peer-reviewed discussion of issues and interventions and members of the NSWPHOT Program have been regular and active participants at this forum.

The strong demand for training positions and the high calibre of the trainees demonstrate that the Program is helping NSW Health to capture the 'best and the brightest' of the graduates emerging from MPH programs around the country. The Program then opens up a career pathway in public health for these individuals. By doing so it ensures that these talented individuals are available to contribute to the health system.

This application represents the next step in the development of the Program and the Association wishes NSW Health well for the outcome.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bradley Forssman
Secretary, PHAA NSW