

Public Health Association of Australia Health Promotion Special Interest Group

Annual report 2010-11

Introduction

In November 2010 the National Preventative Health Agency was formed as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health National Implementation Plan 2009-2015. The agency will have responsibility for providing evidence-based policy advice on preventive health and administering social marketing programs. It is anticipated with such an emphasis and responsibility for national health promotion initiatives the agency will ensure that health promotion has a more prominent role in Australia's health care system in the future. This should also increase employment opportunities for the health promotion workforce particularly for those involved with obesity, alcohol and tobacco and maintain Australia as a world leader in health promotion.

This year's HP SIG work plan focused on:

- Communication
- Updating and reviewing Health policy and HP SIG Policies
- Advocacy
- Continuing to support National office and members
- Liaise with other Associations, State PHAA branches, AHPA, IHUPE SW Pacific Regional Committee.
- Implementing two new Health Promotion awards
- Collaboration on a PHAA National Conference Workshop

Committee

National Convenor: Peter Howat. Secretary (Minutes): Helen Nikolas; Committee: Mary Tehan, Julie Edwards, Maiy Azize, Richard Franklin, Jo Walker, Helen Ashwell; Colleen Smyth, Ginny Monteiro, Sansnee Jirojwong;

Communication

Regular committee teleconferences and Emails to members

Health policy

Tobacco Control: Mike Daube and ACOSH

Hep C Prevention and Control: Melanie Walker, Colleen Smyth and colleagues

HIV/AIDS: Graham Brown and colleagues

Our thanks to members who contributed to updating these policy documents.

Advocacy

HP SIG members continued their involvement in advocacy of several health issues supporting the national office, as well as State level actions. Issues include: Sustainable population; alcohol; obesity; Indigenous health; tobacco.

In addition, the Convener has written letters to politicians (both State and National) and letters to the newspapers, as well as submissions on issues relevant to health promotion.

The alcohol and fast food industries

Lobbying and advocacy for public health policy that is needed to protect Australian children and youth from their aggressive and influential advertising campaigns continues within the PHAA and HPSIG.

Sustainable population strategy

After a national review into sustainable population, there was some hope that sensible policies would be developed by the Federal Government. Sadly, there is still little sign of tangible action despite the strong evidence for the need for such policies.

Tobacco Control

The cigarette plain packaging legislation was finally supported by Parliament providing a boost for tobacco control in Australia.

Liaison with other Professional Associations

Members have continued collaboration with State branches of PHAA, the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA), and with the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) SW Pacific Regional Committee. Mary Tehan represented the HPSIG at meetings between the PHAA Child Health SIG/ Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and RACP.

Liaison with national office

Monthly SIG Conveners' teleconferences.

Travel scholarships to the PHAA conference

The committee decided that no travel scholarships would be awarded for student members to attend the PHAA conference in 2011. Whilst there were some applications by students with good academic work records, disappointingly there was little evidence of voluntary work including work on committees. It was decided that the voluntary work criteria will be highlighted more in future years. (Awards committee: Helen Nikolas; Colleen Smyth; Ginny Monteiro; Peter Howat) .

New Health Promotion Awards

The committee introduced two new health promotion awards in 2011 to acknowledge excellence and commitment to health promotion by Australian members of PHAA.

1. Early career award: Annually a maximum of one award will be made to an outstanding PHAA member who has contributed significantly to the advancement of health promotion (National or State) who is in the first 10 years of their career.
2. Individual award for service: Annually a maximum of one award will be made to an outstanding PHAA member who contributed significantly to the advancement of health promotion (National or State) and to PHAA over a long period (minimum 10 years).

PHAA National Conference Sept 2011

The National Conference to be held in Brisbane between 26th – 28th September 2011. It will include a workshop on alcohol, a collaboration with IPSIG (Injury prevention SIG), and Coordinated by Richard Franklin/IPSIG. Jo Walker is the HPSIG rep on the workshop organising committee. The HPSIG will contribute funding to support the cost of the workshop.

Thanks to the committee, staff in the Canberra Office and members who all contributed to activities during the year.

Peter Howat
National Convenor
PHAA Health Promotion SIG
Sept 2011