



## PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC. NSW BRANCH

Patron: Her Excellency, The Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO

# Branch President's report, 2008/09

Prepared by: Sarah Thackway

This report is a summary of just some of the events and people that have shaped the past year.

### Advocacy

The Branch was actively involved in a wide range of matters of public health interest including:

- Developing and launching the advocacy kit lead by the Social Determinants of Health group (a partnership between NSW PHAA and AHPA).
- Writing to the Premier and all NSW Ministers calling for their support of legislation that restricts the display of tobacco products.
- Commenting on the draft regulation and draft guidelines for vapour recovery at petrol service stations – which was placed on public consultation by DECC.
- Providing input into the national PHAA's response to the NSW Budget
- Launching the *Global Health Watch 2: an Alternative World Health Report* in partnership with the People's Health Movement. Dr Jadue from Chile was a guest speaker.
- Providing a letter of support to the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre that recommended the removal of the Centre's ongoing trial status, and
- Follow-up activities around our submission to the Standing Committee on Social Issues; Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage

### Public Health Training, Education and Workforce Development

- The Vice President participated on a steering committee for a NSW consortium around the PHERP program, until it was disbanded following the Federal Government's budget.
- The Branch ran two successful 'writing for publication' workshops with our partners in the Faculty of Public Health Medicine.
- We also participated in the Careers Evening at Sydney University.

### Seminar Series

- A highlight of this year's seminar series was the presentation by Fran Baume around the alignment of current national initiatives with the WHO Commission's Report into the social determinants of health. AHPA were our partners.
- The Sidney Sax Award was hosted in Sydney and presented to Professor Simon Chapman for his efforts around tobacco control. There were ~50 people in attendance, including the PHAA NSW Branch patron, the Hon Marie Bashir and the national president, Mike Daube.
- The Anti-Poverty week seminar was provided by the NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People.

### The Branch Committee

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sarah Thackway (President)             | 6. Carlie Naylor                |
| 2. Brad Forssman (Vice President)         | 7. Mary Osborn                  |
| 3. Katina Kardaminidis (Branch Treasurer) | 8. Ben Barnes                   |
| 4. Caron Bowen (Branch Secretary)         | 9. Claire Phelan                |
| 5. Catriona Bonfiglioli                   | 10. Shanti Sivaneswaran         |
|   | 11. Jessica Roydhouse (Student) |