

PHAA NT Branch President Rpt 2005-06.

Advocacy, Partnerships and Collaboration

Alcohol

The Northern Territory Branch of the PHAA has been very active in working with the People's Alcohol Action Coalition on a campaign that achieved a new set of restrictions on the sale of alcohol in Alice Springs to be monitored over the next 12 months. This has been a considerable achievement given community tensions around the issue and the campaign waged against alcohol supply measures by sections of the alcohol and tourism industries.

Education

Irrkerlantye.

PHAA(NT) actively supported the right of the Irrkerlantye Indigenous Learning Centre in Alice Springs to maintain its NT Education Dept funding through letters to both the then Minister for Education (Stirling) and local media.

Disability and Education

PHAA(NT) working with the Learning Disabilities Association provided input into the review of the NT Education Department's Inclusions Policy and procedures concerning children with special needs. This review process has led to a major positive overhaul of the department's policy and ongoing development of new funding and assessment procedures.

Environmental Health

The PHAA(NT) has been working with a range of community groups on climate change issues and nuclear issues, including opposition to uranium mines and the proposed nuclear waste dump.

Anti-Nuclear

The Branch has actively supported the central Australian regional Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) based Beyond Nuclear Initiative (and has a representative on the Steering Committee). The Branch made a Submission to the *Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Bill 2005* and co-sponsored a public meeting in Alice Springs (with the Medical Association for the Prevention of War) on radioactive waste issues (both in November 2005).

Climate Change

Peter Tait, on behalf of the PHAA(NT) spoke at a World Environment day rally in Darwin this year, and in March in Darwin presented a paper at the CSIRO Climate Impacts on Indigenous Health Conference. The Branch collaborated with ALEC Climate Action group on various activities including Kyoto/Climate Day activity in November last year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

This last year has seen a veritable media feast upon Aboriginal social issues, much of it highly sensational. The PHAA(NT) did not formally engage in this process. This was partly because key members in this area were active through their own organisations and other networks, but also because as noted much of the coverage was highly sensational and we chose not to attempt to compete for media attention on that basis. By proceeding with hosting the national PHAA Annual Conference in Alice Springs in 2007 with its major focus on Indigenous health, we believe that we can

bring a constructive focus to the issues concerning this arena of public policy and daily struggle. We did however co-host a major public meeting in Alice Springs this year on social issues, many of which were related to the daily reality of Aboriginal people in the town and surrounding regions.

Other Public Health Issues.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety.

The Branch wrote to the Alice Springs Council regarding the safety of an existing path under the Stott St Bridge (September 2006), Council has responded saying they will upgrade and realign the section of path.

Branch Development Issues.

Professional Development

There was a very disappointing response to the Branch's new set of awards launched for the first time this year, and as a result there were no awards given. In the coming year it is recommended that the Branch actively engage with this process to help showcase the organisation and to enable the utilisation of the awards to get ATSI AHW trainees and tertiary students to attend the Annual Conference.

The Branch has finalised the guidelines for a mentorship program, which will be trailed in three Alice Springs based organisations (for mentees) this year. All PHAA(NT) members are encouraged to consider nominating as mentors.

Communications and Branch health.

There has been fluctuating attendance at Branch meetings this year. In mid 2006 a number of meetings failed to get a quorum. It is vital that minutes are sent out and reminder emails circulated prior to meetings, as this seems to help with attendance. There have been no minutes of meetings available for distribution for most of 2006. regular committee members have been Peter Tait, Cheryl North, John Boffa, Rosalie Schultz, Warwick Beevers and myself. In addition Danielle Aquino (Katherine) has often attended via phone link.

Membership development.

Membership has remained basically stable over the last twelve months, although some organisational members have not renewed this year, whether through financial or other reasons has not yet been clarified.

Acknowledgement of Sponsors

Meeting Space for Northern Territory Branch

- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

Clive Rosewarne
PHAA(NT) Branch President
November 2006.