

**Report on the 3rd Public Health – Health Promotion
Annual Conference
Enterprise House, Saturday October 21st 2006**

The 3rd Public Health – Health Promotion Annual Conference was a partnership between the Public Health Association of Australia, The Australian Health Promotion Association and the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, and was sponsored by the South Australian Department of Health. The conference has grown considerably since its inception in 2004. This year 3 keynote speakers and 23 concurrent session speakers presented to 140 attendees. This made it by far the largest conference yet, and demonstrates the continuing success of this conference format. Once again the conference had a poster section and 15 posters were presented. A pleasing aspect of the conference is the expanding diversity of people attending the conference. This year there was an increased number of people from health promotion backgrounds attending as well as a strong contingent from the University of South Australia.

The day began with David Panter frankly discussing of the importance of research to policy makers. This was an excellent presentation which really set the focus of the whole day. David was followed by Ray James who spoke on Health Promotion competencies. The final plenary was delivered by Paul Ward, who outlined some of the ways in which public health research might inform health policy and policy in general.

The two concurrent sessions saw a high standard of papers being presented, with a great diversity of topics. The greater involvement of the University of South Australia has meant that a new range of topics were included in the abstracts submitted for the conference. There were a number of papers on ageing, several on drugs of addiction and a couple on social capital and social theory. The concept of having a respondent in each session, to ask questions, continued to work well.

The Public Health Association together with the conference partner organisations would like to thank the Department of Health for their continuing support of this event. It has now become the major event in South Australia for public health and health promotion students to present their research work. The high proportion of students in the audience was very evident at this year's conference. The continuing success of the event has ensured enthusiasm for next year, and early discussions have begun to also have the Australian Epidemiology Association as partners in next year's event.

A number of improvements are planned for next year including online promotion and registration, which will be done through the collaborating organisations websites. Also it is planned to finish the conference by around 3.30pm, with the 4.30pm finish of the last two conferences being considered too late for a Saturday event.

The poster viewing area in the morning tea break



View of student posters during viewing time



Dr Kerry Kirke presenting the Kerry Kirke Student Prize to the 2006 winner Emma Miller



Christine Morris (State President PHAA) presenting the poster prize to Alex Michelmore and Crystal Bridges of the University of SA.

