14 June 2018

Lisa Atwell
Prevention and Population Health, SA Health
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Dear Lisa,

Re: Submission on the Review of South Australia’s State Public Health Plan by the Public Health Association of Australia

Thank you for meeting with Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) SA Branch President Kate Kameniar last month. Kate appreciated the opportunity to provide further comment on the State Population Health Plan.

The PHAA is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia working to promote the health and well-being of all Australians.

As discussed at the meeting, we refer back to PHAA’s original submission (attached) which outlines the need to ensure:

1. A greater focus on equity and the social determinants of health, particularly for priority groups including, Mental Health, substance abuse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities, the LGBTIQ community, people with dementia, those on low incomes, and those without or in poor housing conditions.
2. That both behavioural and supportive environments that make the healthy choice the easy choice are clearly articulated as strategies – using the Global Charter for the Public’s Health as a framing document for the plan.
3. A greater focus on the role of primary health care in supporting public and population health
4. A review of governance structures for public health in South Australia – we are pleased to note the Minister’s recent confirmation in Parliament that he will be going ahead with a discrete Chief Public Health Officer position, staffed by a separate person to that of the Chief Medical Officer.
5. Increased support and capacity building for the non-government community services sector to engage in and partner in sustainable health planning and community development
6. Increased support for citizen engagement for public health and social justice
7. Clear reference to the Public Health Indicator Framework 2018 and how the outcomes in the plan will be measured, including clear KPIs and timeframes.

Specific to the latest document we note the following recommendations:

- In relation to collaboration with the NGO community services sector, we are calling for a Strategic Advisory committee to the Minister and the new Chief Public Health Officer. The Advisory Committee would consist of key NGOs and organisations with expertise and interests in Public Health planning, such as those organisations in the SA Public Health Consortium (this will be included in our upcoming State Budget submission)
A Children’s Nutrition Strategy, including auditing and enforcing of existing nutritional guidelines in food outlets in public institutions (particularly soft drink bans and healthy vending machines), ban unhealthy food advertising on public property (including bus shelters), consideration for health under the new planning act for zoning regulations to prevent new unhealthy food outlets close to schools and support for councils to implement their public health plans around healthy food access.

With regards to the layout and format of the plan, the feedback from our members has been that it has a logical flow and is easy to read.

We look forward to seeing the next version of the plan and are happy to provide further comment and consultation as needed.

Yours sincerely,

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