PHAA Students and Young Professionals in Public Health (SYPPH) Committee Terms of Reference

Public Health Association of Australia SYPPH Committee

29 November 2017

Vision

“The PHAA can combine their knowledge of public health policy and advocacy with the energy and enthusiasm of younger members through providing them with direction and clear actions. It will also ensure that our future public health leaders are receiving the full support and direction of our association”.

Background

Origin

At the 2017 World Congress on Public Health, the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) President (also CEO of the PHAA) identified that the WFPHA had established a position on the Governing Council for a young professional. A similar position exists in the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). The WFPHA President emphasised the importance of this role in the opening address of the World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne in early April 2017.

South Australian Branch

After discussion at the South Australian PHAA Branch AGM, the South Australian Branch President wrote to the CEO of the PHAA arguing that such a position would assist in fostering future leaders. They included the following:

Similar positions exist with the World Federation of Public Health Associations and the Canadian Public Health Association. We have been in contact with Manasi Parikh who is the current Student Director with the CPHA and is happy to share information about their Student Director role and the Students and Early Careers Sub-Committee which the Student Director chairs. We have attached their terms of reference for you.

We envision that the proposed position would be similar to the WFPHA Young Professional and CPHA Student Director positions. The Early Career/Student Board position would act as a gateway for students and young professionals to access the knowledge and direction of established public health leaders. They would act as an advisory for, and oversee the activities of, students and young professionals at a national level, with close links to state branch student and young professional representatives. This would provide opportunities for students and young professionals to further develop their skills and networks in public health and utilise their passion and energy. In this sense, the PHAA can combine their knowledge of public health policy and advocacy with the energy and enthusiasm of younger members through providing them with direction and clear actions. It will also ensure that our future public health leaders are receiving the full support and direction of our association.
The SA Branch feel that it is important for our association to have a balance of supporting both our student and early career members as well as those members who are more established in their public health careers.

The Board

Following an election process that included nominations of a number of potential young professionals the Board of PHAA appointed Ms Aimee Brownbill as a Young Professional “observer member” of the PHAA Board in August 2017. Ms Brownbill attended the first meeting in this capacity on 24 August 2017.

As part of the process a majority of the Board Members considered that a single year renewable position would be most appropriate for the role of the Young Professional Board Member. To remain consistent with other one year positions on the Board (the Representative positions) it is considered appropriate that the person may continue in the role for up to four consecutive terms.

Following this, the PHAA Constitution was amended to incorporate a position of Early Career Professional Board Member (with voting rights). This was introduced and passed at the PHAA AGM in October 2017. Consistent with other clauses of the PHAA Constitution the Board formally appointed Ms Aimee Brownbill to this position for the 2017-2018 period.

Initiation of the SYPPH Committee

Ms Brownbill made herself familiar with the WFPHA and CPHA terms of reference and immediately began to actively motivate young professionals and student members of the PHAA. Ms Brownbill contacted Sid Kaladharan and Hilary Murchison, other highly regarded nominations for the SYPPH Board Member position. Together they initiated the SYPPH Committee.

Purpose

The purpose of the PHAA SYPPH Committee is to represent the interests of SYPPH within the PHAA and to support and enhance work of the PHAA.

Objectives

1. Support PHAA:
   To be a resource and advisory body to the PHAA Early Career Professional Board Member. Under the Chair of the Early Career Professional Board Member, the committee will discuss and develop ideas as to how PHAA can continue to effectively engage students and early career professionals through development of:
   a. Student and Young Professionals’ opportunities by PHAA,
   b. Recruitment of PHAA Student Members and Young Professional Members, and
   c. Exploration of and support for interdisciplinary networking of public health students and early career professionals.

2. Build PHAA SYPPH Membership and Partnerships:
   The SYPPH Committee will continue to build a PHAA SYPPH membership and develop SYPPH activities through the following mechanisms:
a. Collaborating with PHAA staff, the PHAA Board, PHAA Student and Young Professional members, and other public health student groups on the development of student-related activities;

b. Working with the Student Representative on the PHAA Conference Committee, providing suggestions related to SYPPH involvement in PHAA Conference and assisting in the planning and promotion of SYPPH conference activities and events;

3. Service SYPPH Members of the PHAA
   a. Providing feedback and making recommendations to PHAA on the development and implementation of student initiatives;
   b. Contributing to the SYPPH section in the PHAA InTouch publication, including the recruitment of SYPPH authors for the SYPPH Corner, and to work with the PHAA InTouch Editor on SYPPH involvement in the publication;
   c. Working with the PHAA website coordinator to make recommendations for improving and updating SYPPH-related areas of the PHAA website, as well as exploring the potential for student involvement in other social media.

**Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of SYPPH Committee Members include:

- Advising the PHAA Early Career Professional Board Member as to how PHAA may contribute to effectively engage SYPPH
- Participate in the development and ongoing improvement of PHAA SYPPH activities
- Providing a communication link between PHAA and SYPPH external to the organisation
- Proving leadership to champion PHAA and its SYPPH activities within the SYPPH community at large
- Supporting PHAA student project areas through volunteer subcommittee work

Other tasks may be undertaken as agreed between the Association and the committee. Examples of opportunities for SYPPH Committee members include: representation on national conference planning groups, co-chairing conference sessions and attending key inquiry meetings with PHAA CEO/Policy staff as an observer.

**Term**

Indefinite, as decided by the PHAA Board. Terms of Reference to be reviewed as necessary.

**Membership**

Student and Early Career Professional members of the PHAA are eligible to nominate to join the SYPPH Committee by identifying their interest to the Early Career Professional Board Member. All participants on the committee must be PHAA members, unless at special invitation for one or more teleconference calls and/or agenda items. Members may include graduate and undergraduate students as well as recent graduates and/or public health professionals who are in their first few years of their career. There is currently no maximum number of committee members. At the recommendation of the Early Career Professional Board Member, the PHAA Board, may at some point establish a maximum number of participants for the committee if required.
Members of the Committee include:

Chair: The chair will be the Early Career Professional Board Member that has been appointed by the PHAA Board.

Members-at-large: other membership on the SYPPH Committee will include PHAA Student and Early Career Professional Members invited by the Chair, or voted by the committee in response to self-nomination or recommendations made by the Board.

Specific Committee roles may be developed over the course of the first year of the committee’s establishment.

Meetings

By teleconference bimonthly; or as needed. Meeting dates and times vary and are scheduled prior to each meeting according to the SYPPH Committee Members’ availability.

Commitment

Read and review material as needed, participate in scheduled teleconferences and connect with SYPPH outside of the committee as appropriate.

Accountability

To the PHAA Board through the PHAA Early Career Professional Board Member.

Budget

To be confirmed.