

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we start the new teaching year , I would like to take this opportunity to share some work that has been undertaken on public health competencies through the three articles featured below in this newsletter.

The first article references a global mapping exercise undertaken by the Public Health Professionals Education and Training Working Group of the World Federation of Public Health Associations. This group is chaired by Adjunct Associate Professor Pricilla Robinson, La Trobe University. The second article is by Adjunct Associate Professor Robin Warren, James Cook University, on public health competencies for pharmacists. The third has been written by Dr James Kite, University of Sydney, about the incorporation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Competencies into their MPH program.

CAPHIA is interested in your views about the three foundation competency documents we have developed and we will be sending out a short consultation survey about them in the coming months. At CAPHIA we are always open to new ideas . We welcome your input by emailing caphia@phaa.net.au

Professor Gregory Kolt

President



KEY DATES

CAPHIA Workshop Discussion:

23 March 2021

CAPHIA business & workshop discussion on key public health teaching and research issues.

Mentoring Program Webinar:

22 March 2021

Nominate for the CAPHIA mentoring

Program : Applications close

23 March 2021

Social Media Internship: Applications

open now. *Do you have a knack for*

Twitter and Face Book? Apply to be a

CAPHIA social media intern. Applications

close 15 March 2021.

Practical Competencies for Public Health Education: a Global Analysis

By Dr Leanne Coombe, University of Queensland,
Dr Christina Severinsen, Massey University, and
Adjunct Associate Professor Priscilla Robinson, La Trobe University

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00038-020-01459-3>

CAPHIA supports the work of the Public Health Professionals' Education and Training Working Group (PETWG) of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) which recently undertook to test the assumption that the Global Charter for the Publics' Health (the Charter) can act as a tool for international benchmarking of education and training programs and public health curricula.

The PETWG members undertook to quantify the contents of existing public health competency frameworks against the elements of the Charter. This article reviews a desktop analysis of eight public health competency frameworks and maps these against the elements of the Global Charter—core public health services (Protection, Promotion and Prevention) and overarching enabling functions (Information, Governance, Capacity, and Advocacy). The article then quantified coverage of the Charter's elements in each of the frameworks.

This analysis showed that although the public health competency frameworks vary considerably in terms of coverage, focus and intent, they all cover every element contained in the Global Charter at some level. There were a number of areas of competency identified in some frameworks not explicitly referred to in the Charter including cultural safety and systems thinking, which we hope will be included in the future.

In considering the next steps for the PETWG, Adjunct Associate Professor Priscilla Robinson states that , "the SARS CoV2 pandemic has highlighted the need for people working and teaching in public health to be formally trained in this discipline, in the same way that occurs in other areas of the health science - the need for surge capacity registers and access to trained staff who understand the ways that public health is delivered is critical. To this end the PETWG is making submissions to the WFPHA for consideration for endorsement by the WHO".



Other steps include an international review of public health competencies in the context of First Nations peoples, particularly the extent to which they are included in national competency sets. Consideration of benchmarking of foundation competencies, such as public health principles and practices, and information systems including epidemiology and biostatistics and research methods are other areas we would like to explore.

We have several pieces of research which could make useful student projects for interested students. Please email priscilla.robinson@latrobe.edu.au for more information.

CAPHIA Discussion Workshop and AGM

23 March 2021

Staff of CAPHIA member institutions are invited to participate in this free event that will incorporate presentations, panel discussions and group discussions on a range of key policy, teaching and research issues.



CAPHIA Mentoring webinar

22 March 2021

CAPHIA is delighted to announce that Dr. Rooffe-Bowen, Deputy Dean, University of the West Indies, Jamaica and a fellow at Charles Darwin University, has agreed to give a keynote address at the upcoming CAPHIA mentoring webinar on 22 March 2021 from 1:30pm- 2:30pm (AEDT).

Participation is free for all staff of CAPHIA member institutions.



Competencies for Australian Pharmacists in Public Health

by Adjunct Assoc Professor Robin Warren, James Cook University



As health professionals, pharmacists are expected to not only provide individualised care to patients, but also contribute to the health of populations in their communities, countries and globally.^{1,2} Over the last two decades, there has been increasing recognition of the role

that pharmacists may play in contributing to public health,³⁻⁵ with preventive health services delivered through community pharmacies found to improve individual health outcomes.⁶ However, it has been recognised that further education and training may be needed to allow pharmacists to contribute to their full potential and positively impact population health indicators.^{6,7}

Public health and pharmacy have evolved as separate disciplines, inferring that there may be foundational public health principles that may or may not be included in pharmacy training or provision of services.⁸ Alignment of public health competencies with pharmacy practice frameworks has occurred in the U.K.⁹ and U.S.A.¹⁰ However, this work has not been completed in Australia, despite the development of pharmacy services with a public health focus e.g. immunisation and disease prevention services.^{11,12}

A project examining the interface of public health and pharmacy competency is currently being conducted. This project will aim to align public health skills and knowledge into Australian pharmacy competencies, with outcomes aimed to ensure that pharmacists develop expertise to equip them for practice that aligns with community health needs. A study currently being conducted aims to gather opinions on the topic from public health and pharmacy educators, leaders and practitioners. Future planned studies will include a survey of registered pharmacists and ultimately, a Delphi study using a public health and pharmacy expert panel to develop competencies that will inform the training and ongoing professional development of pharmacists in Australia.

To register your interest in contributing to the project, please contact the researcher, Robin Warren, James Cook University via email at robin.warren@my.jcu.edu.au

Integrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Core Competencies into the University of Sydney's Public Health Teaching

by Dr James Kite, University of Sydney

In 2018, the Sydney School of Public Health (SSPH), the University of Sydney embarked upon a project to integrate and apply CAPHIA's six [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Core Competencies](#) into its postgraduate public health curriculum. Known as the Manymakgungunini Project, the intention was to develop a framework to guide the practical integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing perspectives across all of the SSPH programs. It was led by Suzanne Plater and involved consultation with a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from diverse communities across Australia, as well as internal consultation with unit and program coordinators and the broader University community.

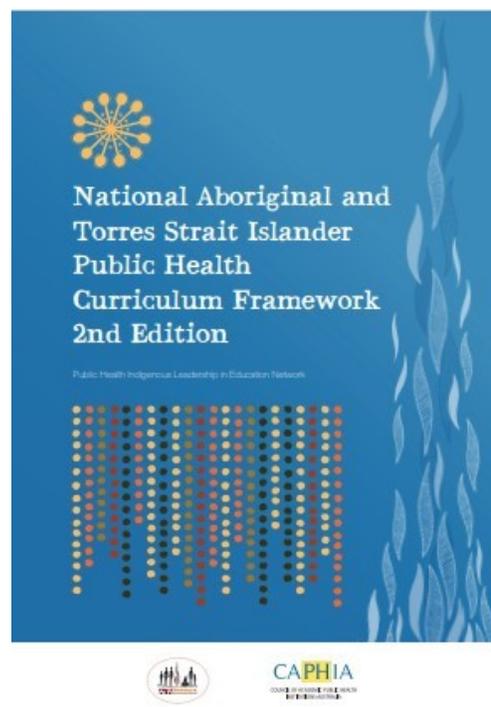
The resulting framework led to a review and update of all core units in SSPH to ensure that the six core competencies were addressed appropriately across the programs. In this way, we hoped that all students that came through one of our programs would have exposure to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing perspectives and would be able to use this foundational knowledge to inform their work outside of their studies. The competencies were also used to create an online resource, accessible to all students, to further their understanding of Australia's historical treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the ongoing health and wellbeing legacies. As a coordinator for one of the Master of Public Health core units, I have seen first hand how students have engaged with this material and developed an interest to learn more.

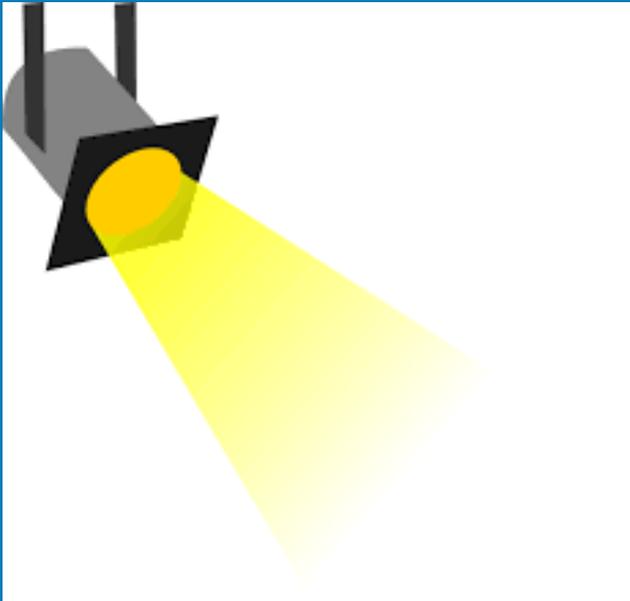
This has been a critical step for SSPH in helping to develop the public health workforce capacity needed to close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Additionally, incorporating the six core competencies into our curriculum could have broader impact as students can apply the competencies in other settings and contexts, such as First Nations populations in other countries.

In 2021, CAPHIA would like to seek your views about the need to update and republish our competency resources available at www.caphia.com.au/foundation.competencies.for.public.health.graduates/

There are currently three documents available that cover graduates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health, and the MPH foundation competencies. Should CAPHIA proceed, this project would be undertaken over 2021 -2022 and this review is not intended to impact current public health teaching.

A short survey will be sent to you in the coming months and we seek your views, including if you would like to participate in project committees or be consulted as part of any project that may proceed. The link to the survey will be forwarded to staff of member institutions shortly.





Does your university have an interesting project you would like to share with your CAPHIA colleagues?

Do you have a PhD student who is undertaking some important public health research?

Send your 300 word article for this newsletter to CAPHIA@phaa.net.au and be ***In The Spotlight***