

CAP^HIA

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH
INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 – 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHIA) is the peak organisation that represents public health in universities that offer programs, research and community service activity in public health and related areas.

Its purpose is to maintain high quality academic standards in the education and development of public health practitioners and researchers, to lead and represent public health education in the tertiary education sector, and to be a respected voice and advocate for the development of public health professionals and researchers.

This Strategic Plan describes the key strategic goals, objectives and measures of success for CAPHIA for the period between 2021 and 2024. It has been developed following broad consultation member institutions that presented a range of key strategic ideas, considered advice on priorities, and contributed to the development of this strategic plan. To ensure measured progress over the four-year period, this document will be accompanied by a series of annual work plans for each level of its governance.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

CAPHIA is led by an Executive Committee supported by an Executive Officer. The role of the Executive Committee includes providing strategic leadership and advocacy, translating the objectives of CAPHIA into annual member benefits, enhancing the evidence base, policy approaches and networks through Teaching and Learning Forums, and providing advice across governments of all jurisdictions to advance public health.

The Executive Committee has a minimum of 10 members who, from time to time, commission advice from sub-committees and working groups. Currently, there is one sub-committee and two portfolio working groups. The two working groups operate on an informal basis and are comprised of members of the Executive Committee.

VISION

CAPHIA is the lead advocacy organisation for tertiary public health education, public health research and public health workforce training and development in Australasia.

MISSION

To improve the public's health by advancing public health education, research and service.

OBJECTIVES

CAPHIA supports public health education and research across Australasia. To achieve this, CAPHIA has the following three primary objectives:

1. CAPHIA will support capacity building and skills development for member organisations, including through:
 - Teaching and Learning Fora;
 - Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Partnerships;
 - Facilitating discussions and systems for curriculum content shaping;
 - Early Career Academic and Postgraduate support across member institutions; and
 - Awards and recognition.
2. CAPHIA will promote and support the collective views of member institutions in order to advocate for:
 - Increased investment in public health higher education and research;
 - Evidence based policy and practice;
 - A larger public health workforce with access to continuing education; and
 - The formation of a workforce planning and research-teaching nexus with working partners.
3. CAPHIA will support, facilitate, and enhance partnerships and networks both within and beyond Australasia.

OBJECTIVE 1: CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

Teaching public health is part of the core business of CAPHIA's member organisations. Collectively, CAPHIA's members are responsible for the majority of tertiary public health education in Australasia, and for the development of the future public health workforce. Teaching public health is a crucial link between public health research and on-the-ground improvements to health. Public health teaching and research should reflect the diversity of communities across Australasia and include Indigenous and cultural and linguistically diverse and populations. The science of teaching and learning is an area of research translation where CAPHIA's contribution is especially important.

HOW WILL CAPHIA OPERATIONALISE THIS OBJECTIVE

- CAPHIA will partner with member institutions to enhance the curriculum in public health programs across Australasia. This includes identifying and advocating broad level principles for Indigenous health curricula within the postgraduate and undergraduate public health programs and ensuring the availability of updated locally relevant competencies.
- CAPHIA will encourage the sharing of resources, where permissible, to enhance teaching and learning, and research. CAPHIA will undertake this strategically, noting that collaboration is sought within a competitive operating environment.
- CAPHIA will support capacity building through the promotion of evidence based public health teaching and learning, and research in Australasia, including consideration and discussion of when the research evidence base for new ideas is sufficient to be incorporated into new approaches to teaching and learning practice.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

1. Consult with members about reviewing the *Foundation Competencies for Public Health Graduates in Australia, 2nd Edition* and publish a third edition, and with options for public health accreditation. As part of these consultations, the Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Framework will be incorporated where possible and culturally appropriate to do so.
2. Holding Teaching and Learning Fora that highlight scholarship of teaching initiatives and teaching innovations, provide networking opportunities, and promote recognition of excellence at least annually between 2021 and 2024.
3. Hosting a series of webinars on topics relevant to CAPHIA's members.
4. The CAPHIA mentoring program is held over the life of the Strategic Plan to enable capacity building and career sponsorship opportunities for early and mid-career academics at member institutions.

OBJECTIVE 2: ADVOCATING FOR AND PROMOTING THE COLLECTIVE VIEW OF MEMBERS

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

CAPHIA operates in a dynamic environment. Engaging with our members is critical to maximising CAPHIA's influence and capacity to serve the interests of its member organisations.

Advocating for public health teaching and learning, and research, particularly for and with Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse people, improves the health of people within the Australasian region and their health systems. Improving the governments' and public's understanding of the benefits of public health and the extent of its unrealised potential for people and governments will advance the common agenda of CAPHIA's member organisations.

HOW WILL CAPHIA OPERATIONALISE THIS OBJECTIVE

- CAPHIA will advocate for increased investment in public health teaching and learning, research, and research training. This will include working with the World Federation of Public Health Associations Public Health Professionals' Education and Training Working Group.
- CAPHIA will enhance its visibility to government in supporting enhanced public health teaching and learning policy positions and workforce development.
- CAPHIA will provide forums for members to consider current public health research priorities for funding.
- CAPHIA will contribute to building evidence-based policy with policy makers and industry. This will include strengthening collaboration with the Public Health Association of Australia, the Public Health Association of New Zealand, and other similar organisations.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

1. CAPHIA will facilitate opportunities for staff and students at member institutions to publish work about public health and facilitate opportunities for joint research.
2. CAPHIA will increase the profile of public health through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) across Australasia.
3. CAPHIA will meet with government and other agencies and provide advice to members following these discussions. CAPHIA will also work collaboratively with research funding agencies to support and promote public health research conducted by member institutions.

4. CAPHIA will make submissions to governments on matters related to public health teaching and research that highlight CAPHIA policy positions on matters under government consideration.
5. CAPHIA will participate in discussions across the Health, Education, and Social Services Australian Government portfolios and identify high level strategic opportunities for our members to advocate, promote, and support translational approaches of public health teaching and research.

OBJECTIVE 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS ARE SUPPORTED AND ENHANCED

WHY IS THIS A PRIORITY?

The study of public health across Australasia is broad. By supporting and enhancing partnerships and networks, CAPHIA will assist staff at member institutions to be supported and connected in with their colleagues and peers. It will enable common issues to be considered and ideas to be exchanged, and strengthens the evidence base for high quality public health teaching and learning and research across our member institutions.

HOW WILL CAPHIA OPERATIONALISE THIS OBJECTIVE

- CAPHIA will facilitate communication between staff at member institutions, particularly early career academics and researchers, through a variety of media.
- CAPHIA policy positions will be available on the website and shared via social media.
- CAPHIA will develop and maintain strategic partnerships with other peak bodies and professional groups that represent the diversity of population groups across Australasia. CAPHIA will collaborate with the Public Health Association of Australia, Public Health Association of New Zealand, the Australasian Epidemiological Association, and the Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators to demonstrate member value and efficient and effective utilisation of joint resourcing.
- CAPHIA will build international relationships that support public health education, and research in Australasia. These relationships will enable the provision of advice and feedback on key Australasian issues of strategic importance and how these issues will impact our members.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

1. CAPHIA will work towards joint initiatives with its strategic partners in order to support member views and increase their influence in Australasia through establishing communities of practice and SoTL projects.
2. Member satisfaction with the networks and partnerships that have been facilitated by CAPHIA across public health teaching and learning, and research in Australasia.
3. Increased member engagement with CAPHIA social media and participating in CAPHIA member events.
4. Early career academics and postgraduate students have opportunity to undertake professional development, mentoring, and networking across member institutions.
5. CAPHIA's international partnerships with other peak bodies are strengthened through collaborative working arrangements.