



2022-2024

# Advocacy in Action Plan

CAP<sup>H</sup>IA

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

## Foreword from CAPHIA Chair

Public health represents a vital aspect of enhancing and supporting health through its focus on populations and communities.

As public health educators, we are the links between theory and practice, student and workforce. This role gives us the opportunity to gain a vastly increased understanding of the practical, environmental, experiential, and perceptual knowledge that underpins the presentation of health within our community.

Collaboration is central to our practice as both public health practitioners and educators at local and international levels. This allows us to constantly contribute to the knowledge base within the field and disseminate this knowledge through multidisciplinary collaboration.

Advocacy:

- Disseminates this collective knowledge, builds awareness and promotes community health. It allows us to influence avenues for systemic changes targeted at addressing health inequities in our society;
- Allows us to prepare informed responses to arising threats to community health and present targeted strategies that add to our existing cultural frameworks, including legislation; and
- Provides us with a means for expressing a most fundamental goal of our society, that is, a unified means for supporting our most vulnerable communities.

Our ability to act as advocates in public health remains a powerful tool for achieving an ideal system of healthcare practice and policy in Australasia and beyond.

***Professor Rebecca Ivers***  
**Chair, CAPHIA Board of Directors**

# Vision

A robust, evidence-informed  
 and well-resourced  
 Australasian public health  
 system with a sustainable  
 workforce that meets existing  
 and future public health needs

## Document Purpose

The Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia (CAPHIA) is the peak body representing academic public health in the region.

CAPHIA aims to:

- extend high quality academic standards to educate and develop public health practitioners and researchers
- lead and represent public health education in the tertiary sector
- advocate for the development of public health professionals and researchers within Australasia.

Advocacy is one of three strategic pillars in the [CAPHIA 2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#) and aims to promote and support the collective views of member institutions. The Advocacy in Action Plan 2022-2024 articulates a roadmap to achieve advocacy priorities. Progress toward these priorities are reflected in Annual Reports aligned to the July - June membership year.

## Background

The Advocacy in Action Consultation Group (AiA CG) was formed in 2021 to enhance evidence-based decision making surrounding public health education, research and workforce development at the local, federal and international levels.

The Group is chaired by Professor Rebecca Ivers, who is Head of the School of Population Health at UNSW and Chair of the CAPHIA Board of Directors. The AiA CG leads the development and implementation of CAPHIA's advocacy strategies to improve the health of communities and their health systems across Australasia.

The Group has commenced a literature review and published a letter in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* calling for support and investment in academic public health. [The CAPHIA Letter to the Editor calling for Government support and commitment to university-level public health education, research and workforce development](#) has been published in the open access ANZJPH.

## 2022 Refocus

A 2022 call for new AiA CG members resulted in a significant response, which provided an opportunity to rethink our approach to progress CAPHIA's advocacy agenda. Additionally, the new Australian federal government committed to establishing a Centre for Disease Control (CDC). These represent unique opportunities to build the evidence base to inform decision making and guide the development of a strong and effective public health workforce for Australia.

Given these opportunities, the initial focus for the AiA CG and its subgroups was to develop evidence-based recommendations to guide the formation of a CDC. This work is expected to inform the broader questions of what is needed to a) develop and b) invest in the public health workforce to ensure sustainable and effective health systems across Australasia. Parallel work to deliver these aims includes building a panel of senior public health academics who represent CAPHIA to regularly meet with government officials and CAPHIA partners to further our shared objectives.

## Success Measures

- 1** Achieve consensus on priority areas and develop clear and compelling advice, original research and plain language communications to promote the CAPHIA position.
- 2** Have a seat at the table – we will be actively called upon to inform submissions, scope new initiatives, guide policy reform, respond to requests for tenders, etc.
- 3** Develop relationships and regularly meet with government officials and professional staff to identify and progress shared goals to further academic public health.
- 4** Build strong partnerships and networks with public health allies to co-deliver initiatives of mutual interest.
- 5** Are awarded funding, grants or similar to further the development of evidence-based academic public health.

## Timelines and Governance

2022:

Public Health Workforce – Australian CDC

- International CDC Review Subgroup (review of CDC models)
- Australian Public Health Workforce Review Subgroup (lightweight gap analysis)
- Contribution to submission request and associated communications.

2023-2024:

- Public health workforce – entire public health workforce across Australasia
- Government outreach
- Network and partnership outreach.

## Deliverables

The AiA and its subgroups may conduct the following to achieve advocacy priorities and support the program of work:

