

**2021-2024**

# **Strategic Plan**

**CAPHIA**

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

# Introduction

## WHO WE ARE

We are the peak body for universities offering undergraduate and postgraduate public health programs, research and workforce development. We are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and under the Australian Capital Territory's Associations Incorporation Act 1991 in 2011. CAPHIA is led by a board of directors supported by CAPHIA staff. Reporting to the board are 11 committees, subcommittees, working groups and subgroups that progress the 2021-2024 CAPHIA Strategic Plan. The CAPHIA Constitution, published May 2022, articulates our governance arrangements and rules as well as our purpose, scope and foci.

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 consultation with 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 a Board of Directors supported by an Executive Director. The role of the Board of Directors 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 CAPHIA Board of Directors consist of Elected Directors and Appointed Directors 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 Board of Directors.

**We Advance Public Health Education, Research & Workforce Development**

## 2021-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

### VISION

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

### MISSION

To improve the public's health by advancing public health education, research and workforce development

### OBJECTIVES

To advance public health education and research, and to lead and represent public health in universities throughout the Australasian region

### PILLARS

#### Professional Development

CAPHIA will support capacity building and skills development for member organisations

#### Advocacy

CAPHIA will promote and support the collective views of member institutions

#### Partnerships & Networks

CAPHIA will support, facilitate and enhance partnerships and networks both within and beyond Australasia

# Objectives

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

## Professional Development

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.

## Advocacy

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.

## Partnerships & Networks

CAPHIA will support, facilitate, and enhance partnerships and networks both within and beyond Australasia.

- International engagements
- Co-design of best practice public health education locally and internationally
- Facilitate partner-delivered content for members.

# Professional Development

CAPHIA will support capacity building and skills development for member organisations

## 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 CAPHIA MEASURE SUCCESS?

**1** Consult with members about reviewing the CAPHIA public health competencies

**2** Host a series of interactive webinars

**3** Hold annual CAPHIA Teaching and Learning Forums

**4** Run the Mentoring Program over the life of the Strategic Plan

# Advocacy

## CAPHIA will promote and support the collective views of member institutions

### 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 enhances 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 CAPHIA MEASURE SUCCESS?

- 1** Facilitate opportunities for staff and students to publish work about public health
- 2** Increase the profile of public health through the SoTL across Australasia
- 3** Meet with government and other agencies and advise members based on these discussions
- 4** Make Government Submissions that promote CAPHIA policy positions
- 5** Identify opportunities to advocate, promote & support translational approaches of public health teaching and research with Government

# Partnerships & Networks

## CAPHIA will support, facilitate and enhance partnerships and networks both within and beyond Australasia

### 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 CAPHIA MEASURE SUCCESS?

- 1** Joint initiatives with strategic partners, communities of practice & Scholarship of Teaching and Learning projects
- 2** Regular member satisfaction with the networks & partnerships
- 3** Increased member engagement with CAPHIA social media & 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