CAPHIA

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH
INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

2025
PUBLIC HEALTH
HACKATHON

REDUCING VAPING HARMS IN YOUNG PEOPLE

PARTNER PROSPECTUS

HOSTED BY

UTS

On Gadigal Land
Sydney, New South Wales
Australia

**November 4 - 6
2025**

CAPHIA@CAPHIA.COM.AU

THE COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

WHAT WE DO

✳ Professional Development

We support capacity building and skills development.

✳ Advocacy

We advocate for investment in public health teaching, learning and research.

✿ Partnerships and Networks

We build and enhance partnerships and networks within and beyond Australasia.

CAPHIA

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALASIA

OUR VISION

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

CAPHIA is the peak organisation that represents public health in universities and aligned organisations that offer education, research and workforce development throughout Australasia.

Our 39 institutional members across Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea include universities and affiliate organisations that closely align with CAPHIA's vision, mission and objectives.

CAPHIA

Dear potential Partner,

Public health tackles complicated societal challenges and conditions which impact human health at scale. In November 2025, CAPHIA, in partnership with UTS, will host a Public Health Hackathon. Reducing vaping harms was chosen as our theme because this issue disproportionately affects our youth. They are being targeted by bad commercial actors who profit at the expense of the health of our future leaders.

"Vaping is big tobacco's way of creating a new generation of lifetime consumers for their profit"

PUBLIC HEALTH HACKATHON

This Hackathon is the **second of its kind in Australasia** for public health students.

Student teams combine their knowledge and lived experience with **Design Thinking** skills taught during the Hackathon, to ideate new initiatives to address vaping harms.

To maximize participation and cross-sector connections, we're also hosting our annual Heads of School Summit and our annual Teaching and Learning Forum, attended by academic leaders and experts from across Australasia, where we work together to shape our strategy and vision.

By becoming one of our values-aligned partners, your organisation is given a strategic opportunity to support our vision: for safer, healthier communities. We are committed to developing packages which align with your organisation's strategic objectives and invite suggestions on tailoring our options to suit your brand needs.

We look forward to partnering with you.

Holly Donaldson

Holly Donaldson
CAPHIA Executive Director

Day 1

Explore the challenge

Student teams form and start unpacking their challenge.

Day 2

Develop solutions

Learn from industry leaders & innovators at the forefront of public health.

Day 3

Pitch for Prizes

Teams present their solution to hackathon participants, the CAPHIA leaders & experts. Finalists pitch to CAPHIA Teaching and Learning delegates for a chance to win prizes.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

Over three days, students are mentored by experts and community leaders to co-create solutions to "wicked" societal problems around a central theme: Reducing vaping harms in young people

75+ "HACKERS"

PLUS **175** ATTENDEES

ACROSS **39** UNIVERSITIES

FROM **4** COUNTRIES

Public Health

- Preventive Health
- Health Promotion
- Determinants of Health
- Systems Thinking
- Health Economics
- Advocacy
- Public Policy

Design Thinking

- Open mindset
- Empathy
- Creative thinking
- Embrace ambiguity
- Prototyping
- Learn from failure
- Iterate

Public Health Hackathon

CAPHIA

Over the past decade, vaping among youth has surged by 1500%, leading to significant health concerns such as lung damage, nicotine addiction, and exposure to toxic substances. This rise in vaping also results in higher healthcare expenses and additional pressure on medical services.

Results from the 2022–2023 National Drug Strategy Household Survey show that daily e-cigarette use in Australia has risen from 0.5% in 2016 to 3.5% in 2022–2023. Use is particularly high among young adults, with 9.3% of people aged 18–24 and 6.5% of those aged 25–29 vaping daily.

To address this issue, we are bringing together public health, IT, and allied health students for a 3-day hackathon focused on developing practical solutions to reduce vaping-related harms.

What solutions may look like:
- **Mobile apps for vaping cessation support**
- **Early detection systems for vaping in schools**
- **AR/VR-based educational platforms**
- **Data analytics tools for tracking vaping trends**
- **Digital intervention programs for at-risk youth**
- **Vaping harms awareness campaigns co-designed with target populations**
- **Advocacy campaigns to (or for) local, state or national government**
- **Culturally effective cessation support programs**

CAPHIA

"The experience was invaluable for applying knowledge, collaborating, and innovating solutions to real-world problems."

Sharon Kemboi
MPH (Adv), Torrens University

"The hackathon provided a unique opportunity to explore new perspectives and innovative solutions on an issue closely related to my research."

Zelalem Azene
PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong

"I made a lot of new friends from different backgrounds."

Trix Taime
MPH, James Cook University

"One of the most valuable lessons I learned was the power of diverse perspectives; working alongside individuals from various disciplines allowed us to approach challenges creatively and develop more holistic solutions."

Sabita Mahat
MPH, Australian Catholic University

"The highlight of the hackathon was the chance to meet and collaborate with experts from diverse fields. Each person brought a unique perspective to the table."

Honey Cin Zah
MPH, Monash University

CAPHIA

HOW MIGHT WE

Mobilise community-led **advocacy and activism** to reduce vaping harms?

HOW MIGHT WE

Build culturally effective protective mechanisms with **priority populations?**

HOW MIGHT WE

Develop public health-informed **policy, evidence-based practice and research?**

By connecting emerging and existing multi-sector leaders, we boost our capability and capacity for addressing complex challenges

Hackathon challenges play to the strengths of public health to create meaningful student-led solutions:

- Students will learn the important skill of breaking down a large, complicated problem into aspects which can be addressed, recognising there is no one elixir for any problem.
- A core feature of a hackathon is learning and applying design thinking to a specific challenge related to an overall theme.
- Design thinking enables teams to examine a problem in new ways through creative, iterative processes.
- Students are guided by experts across public health, substance use, youth health, tobacco control and design thinking.

Hackathon Partner

A unique opportunity to situate your organisation at the forefront of a unique, impactful Australasian event

INCLUSIONS

- Recognition throughout the Hackathon including opening and pitch sessions with 250+ attendees.
- Your brand logo displayed in all promotional materials, including on our website, newsletters, social media, presentation slides and digital signage across UTS campuses and the venue.
- Feature your branding prominently at the Hackathon through banners, screens, and event collateral.
- Potential to provide a short address or marketing materials - e.g. video related to the topic (subject to approval)
- Attendance at the Pitch Session and ability to mentor student teams.
- Opportunities to tailor our promotional campaign to meet your objectives. This may include reflective pieces (blogs, social media posts etc.).
- A dedicated full-page feature in official program (to be supplied, pending CAPHIA approval) for maximum visibility.

YOUR AUDIENCE

EDUCATORS

LEADERS

INNOVATORS

GRADUATES

STUDENTS

RESEARCHERS

POLICY MAKERS

INDUSTRY

BENEFITS

EShowcase your commitment to working with communities to build capability and capacity for **tackling "wicked" problems**.

Demonstrate your **organisation's commitment to reducing vaping harms in young people.**

COST

- Starting from $10,000

Contact CAPHIA to tailor this opportunity to align with your organisational objectives.

Travel Bursaries

Demonstrate your organisation's commitment to equity and corporate social responsibility by participating in CAPHIA's Travel Equity Program

Equity is at the heart of public health.
Bursaries will enable academics and staff from our fee-exempt members, as well as those in hardship, to take part.

CAPHIA travel bursaries **strengthen local capacity and capabilities** to better serve communities.

INCLUSIONS

- Your brand logo displayed in all promotional materials, including on our website, newsletters, social media with opportunities to tailor our promotional campaign to meet your objectives.
- For large sponsorships:
  - Verbal recognition at Pitch Event
  - Blog post and 1x social media post from each bursary awardee reflecting on their learnings.
  - Physical branding materials (e.g. banner and marketing collateral) on display
  - Opportunity to mentor the student teams.

BENEFITS

- **Unique opportunity** to see the direct impact of your contribution.
- **Brand visibility** across our network through a targeted promotional campaign for the bursary call both before and after the forum including via our email newsletter and across CAPHIA's social media platforms.

COST

- $10,000 recommended

Contact CAPHIA to tailor this opportunity to align with your organisational objectives.

Pitch Prizes

Exhibit your organisation's commitment to celebrate excellence and innovation in Reducing Vaping Harms by sponsoring the team prizes.

Team Prizes:
- ### Most Achievable
- ### Most Creative
- ### People's Choice

The diverse judging panel rate the teams according to a set of criteria.

The People's Choice is determined by **live polling** after the pitches have concluded.

The audience also provides **live feedback** to the teams in real time.

INCLUSIONS

- Your brand logo displayed in Prize promotional materials including on our website, newsletters, social media with opportunities to tailor our promotional campaign to meet your objectives.
- Verbal recognition at Pitch Event.
- Photos with winning teams.

BENEFITS

- Unique opportunity to see the **direct impact** of your contribution.
- **Brand visibility** across our network through a **targeted promotional campaign** for the bursary program both before and after the forum including via our email newsletter and across CAPHIA's social media platforms.

COST

- $5,000 AUD recommended or $10,000 if also sponsoring the Hackathon catering

CAPHIA

2025

PUBLIC HEALTH
HACKATHON

Heads of Schools
Summit

**TEACHING &
LEARNING FORUM**

Three exciting in-person events bringing together a diverse audience from across the spectrum of public health.

Join us at the University of Technology Sydney's campus in the heart of this iconic city.

UTS

CAPHIA

- ACU AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
- FNU FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE
- UNSW AUSTRALIA
- Australian National University
- Flinders University
- THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA
- UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA
- CQUniversity AUSTRALIA
- Griffith UNIVERSITY
- UNIVERSITY of OTAGO Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo NEW ZEALAND
- University of South Australia
- CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY
- JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA
- THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
- University of Southern Queensland
- Curtin University
- LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
- THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- University of the Sunshine Coast Australia
- DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
- MACQUARIE University
- THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA
- SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
- DIVINE WORD UNIVERSITY PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- MASSEY UNIVERSITY TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND
- THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
- UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA
- ECU EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA
- MONASH University
- THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
- UTS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY
- Federation University
- QUT Queensland University of Technology
- TORRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA
- WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
- IHM Australia
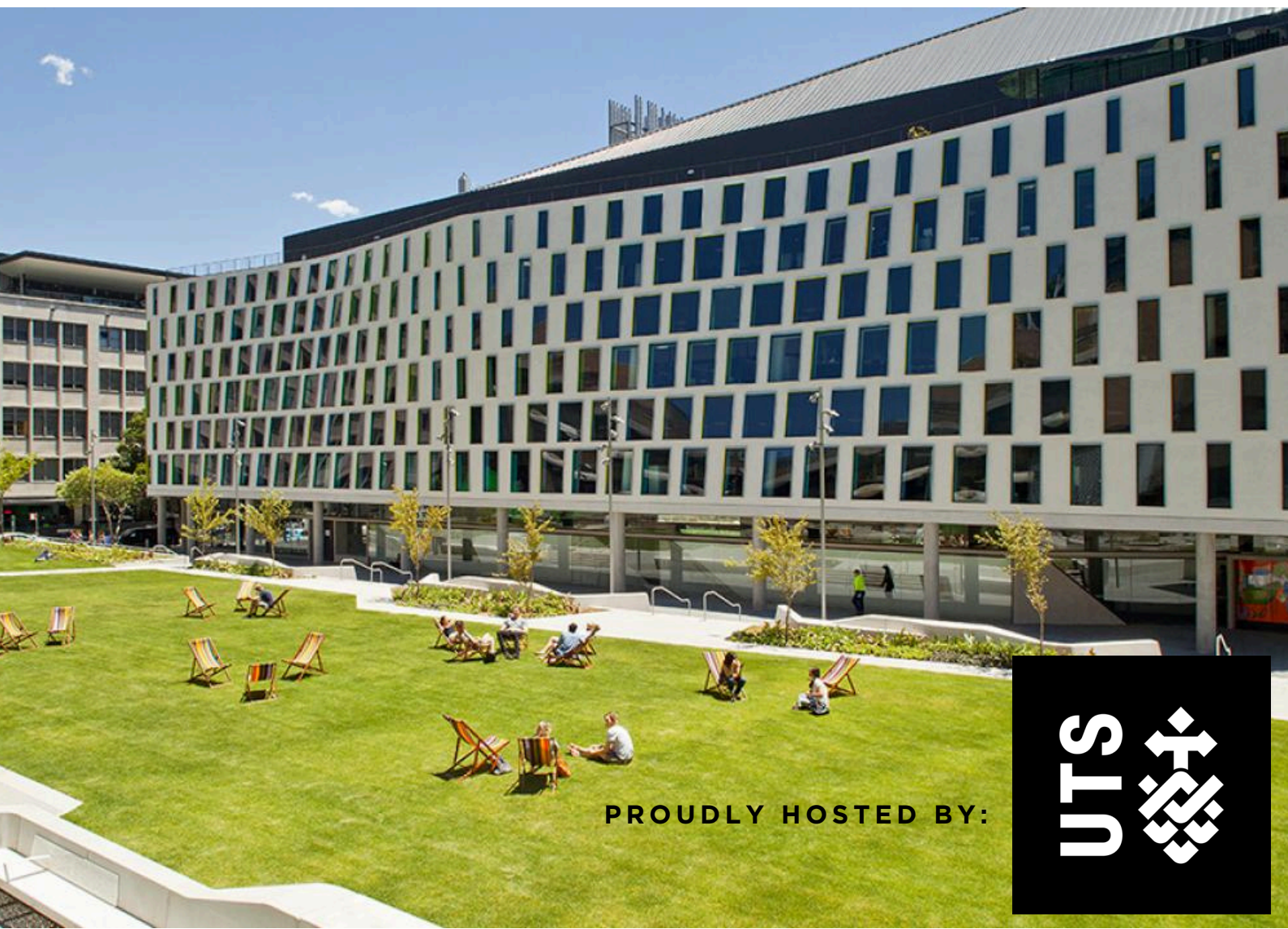- NSW GOVERNMENT | Health

CAPHIA
PUBLIC HEALTH
HACKATHON 2025

+ TEACHING AND LEARNING FORUM
+ Heads of Schools Summit

Thank you for your interest in supporting the 2025 CAPHIA Public Health Hackathon.

To secure your place as a supporter, partner or exhibitor, or for more information please contact us at **caphia@caphia.com.au**

PROUDLY HOSTED BY: UTS