

# 2024 CAPHIA Award Winners






# About the CAPHIA Awards



The CAPHIA awards recognise, celebrate and promote innovation and excellence in public health teaching and research across Australasia. The awards for the very best and brightest educators serve to encourage and inspire the many generations to come and uplift the quality of public health education.

The awards recognise individuals or teams currently working at a CAPHIA member institutions who have made an outstanding contribution to public health teaching and learning, and/or research and who have clearly demonstrated excellence and innovation.

### Categories

-  Individual contribution
-  Early Career Researcher
-  Team contribution

### Nomination Types

-  Peer Nomination
-  Self Nomination



## AWARD DESCRIPTION

CAPHIA Teaching Excellence recognises and rewards the contribution of CAPHIA members to quality teaching and learning and inspiring student learning in public health.

# CAPHIA Award Winner 2024



Early Career Academic



Abela Mahimbo  
**University of Technology  
Sydney**

## BIOGRAPHY

Dr Abela Mahimbo's success as an educator is due to her teaching and learning philosophy, which is to develop authentic and transformative learners using learner-centred approaches. Abela is a senior lecturer at University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate students. She recognizes students as learning partners and use learner-centred teaching approaches to achieve high-quality teaching and learning experience. Dr Abela is aware of the challenges that students from CALD and other minority groups face in exercising agency, so she provides opportunities for students from these backgrounds to share their experiences. Her students recognise that her teaching and learning approach equips them with the relevant skills, knowledge and attributes for making real-life impacts.

# CAPHIA Award Winner 2024



Individual contribution

## BIOGRAPHY

Kate Dundas is a seasoned lecturer at the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle. She has won several teaching awards in recognition of her broader work in undergraduate public health education. Kate has worked tirelessly to instill a passion for public health in large cohorts of students undertaking studies in a wide variety of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs. Kate is a progressive design thinker and educator, being deeply committed to equitable education access and outcomes for young people. Often referred to as their 'cheer leader' by students, a tangible focus on self-care and embedding well-being activities in every advisory is an essential part of Kate's practice. Insights from Kate's works will be profiled in presentations at the CAPHIA Teaching and Learning Forum.

**Kate  
Dundas**

**The University of Newcastle  
Australia (UON)**

# CAPHIA Award Winner 2024



MONASH University

## Medical Education Research Quality (MERQ) Team

### BIOGRAPHY






Team contribution



The Medical Education Research & Quality (MERQ) unit works within the School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) at Monash University. MERQ unit has made outstanding contributions to pedagogical research, education, and professional activities that have built teaching and learning capacity across Monash and other universities locally and internationally. The team has led many professional development activities and set the trend for professional education programs.

MERQ has made significant contributions to public health and health professions education research, recognized nationally and internationally for their innovation and nexus between research and implementation in education. The team has a strong track record in health professions education research, establishing strong local, national and international collaborations, and translating their research into practice and policy.

### Categories

-  Individual contribution
-  Early Career Researcher
-  Team contribution

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## AWARD DESCRIPTION

The Research Excellence award aims to recognise and reward the contribution of CAPHIA members to the highest quality research, driving evidence-informed practice in public health.

# CAPHIA Award Winner 2024



Early Career Researcher



Sheikh Mohammad Alif  
**Federation University**

## BIOGRAPHY

Dr Sheikh Alif is a Senior Lecturer of Public Health at Federation university. His PhD and postdoctoral research focused on occupational exposure and lung diseases that helped him attain reputable awards and recognition in the field. Dr Alif's research is contributing to public health strategies for preventing occupational lung diseases, influencing numerous public health and workplace health and safety guidelines. He has published in multiple peer-reviewed journals and is a highly cited author.

Dr Alif is also building a future generation of excellent researchers through teaching and supervision of graduate and postgraduate students. He has been maintaining an excellent teaching evaluation record and demonstrated his ability to integrate cutting-edge research into public health domain.

# CAPHIA Award Winner 2024



Team contribution

## BIOGRAPHY

The University of Queensland Student Toolbox for Achieving Resilience (UQ STAR) program in the School of Public Health is a collaborative initiative between School of Public Health and School of Psychology at University of Queensland (UQ). The program has been developed to support the mental health and well-being of students. The program aimed to incorporating positive psychology interventions into the course contents of students.

The program also used the input of students' voices to improve the course contents and its effectiveness. The students responded that the program encouraged them in building stress management skills, building connection with others, and considering their future careers in public health. The findings from the UQ STAR program will be shared at 2024 CAPHIA Teaching and Learning Forum.




**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND**  
AUSTRALIA


UQ Star Project  
(Team)

**University of Queensland**

#### Categories

 Individual contribution

#### Nomination Type

 Peer Nomination



## AWARD DESCRIPTION

This medal recognises the exemplary achievement of an individual who has significantly contributed to public health education in Australasia. The individual may or may not be in the more traditional public health space (for example, outside a university) but will demonstrate a history of driving improvements, innovations and capability building to advance public health education over their career. The CAPHIA Medal celebrates the diversity and long-term strategic thinking of our public health leaders, which reflect the practice itself.

# CAPHIA Award Winner 2024



**Prof Colleen Fisher**

**University of Western  
Australia**

## BIOGRAPHY

Professor Colleen Fisher has made outstanding contributions to the field of Public Health – in leadership roles and as a teaching and research academic. She is Head of the School of Population and Global Health at UWA. Professor Fisher has a strong national and international reputation as a leader in public health – as Vice-Chair of the APHEA Board of Accreditation, Past President of CAPHIA, and engagement with various international collaborators in research. She leverages her industry and public health leadership connections to enrich student experience and connects students to potential employers, to expose them to the breadth of potential areas of professional experience.

Professor Fisher is passionate about sharing knowledge and exciting others about the importance of public health knowledge and effective policy, by her leadership and own direct contributions to teaching, research training, research, and professional and public engagement.

Congratulations to all  
the 2024 CAPHIA  
Award Winners