

APACPH Annual Report – July 2017– Australia

Prepared by: Australia Regional Director, Professor Philip Baker, PhD

Review of Activities

The Australian Regional Director Office is currently hosted at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Queensland (since 2015).

The regional office promotes the activities of APACPH within Australia through coordinating and representing the six Australian member universities. We are encouraging and providing leadership for the development of strategic directions and organisational renewal within the executive council. Supporting networking, collaboration and sharing of knowledge and skills between APACPH member institutions is a priority.

Together, the Australian APACPH university members consciously continue to build partnerships and collaborative projects with other APACPH members throughout the region. Many of these initiatives have at some point have benefited from APACPH engagement.

The regional office at QUT is presently compiling an extensive list of engagement and partnership by its members in the Asia-Pacific region. The following provides examples of these activities and outputs.

Engagement highlights: 2016/17

Australian member universities have highly visible, established partnerships in Vietnam that involves both the Vietnam APACPH member institution (Hanoi University of Public Health) and non-member organisations. Australian member institutions continue to make a significant contribution to the development of Vietnam's Public Health work-force capacity. Examples of these include partnerships of Hanoi University of Public Health with QUT comprising of active collaborative projects, research student co-supervision and joint publications. UNSW is also cooperatively active as shown by recent publications such as "Improving hospital death certification in Viet Nam: a pilot study of injury-related fatalities" (R. Harrison UNSW/ Hanoi SPH). QUT continues in a highly productive partnership (of many years) with Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy. QUT supported the establishment of the Institute for Community Health Research. In addition, QUT continues to provide Masters and PhD training for students in both Australia and Vietnam which supports the capacity building of the Vietnam Public Health academic community and the delivery of health services more broadly. Together we benefit through these collaborations.

Australian members are actively involved in China through active collaboration in teaching and research such as with Beijing Centres for Disease Control China (e.g. R. Macintyre, UNSW) and other universities such as Peking University Health Science Centre, Beijing. Recent publications include: 'Influenza vaccine effectiveness against influenza-associated hospitalization in 2015/16 season, Beijing, China.' (UNSW).

Partnership with Fiji and other Pacific Island nations is also very strong. Work includes studies on diet quality and depressive symptomology amongst Fijian adolescents (Deakin U & Fiji), and hypertension and obesity in Fiji (UNSW). The partnership of QUT with Solomon Islands National University, Honiara recently resulted in a PhD completion examining men's sexual difficulties in Honiara.

Member institution UNSW provides leadership for the Integrated Systems for Epidemic Response (ISER) ((Australian partners, USA, China & Malaysia).

APACPH members participate in global leadership. For example, Deakin Professor Richard Osborne was one of the international health experts that WHO invited to take part in the WHO's 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Shanghai, 21–24 November, which was attended by more than 1000 people, including the Prime Minister of China, more than 40 ministers of health and heads of 5 UN agencies.

Curtin, Deakin, QUT and other the Australian members have established collaborations in Indonesia and Malaysia. An example of this includes the joint MPH degree program between Curtin University and University of Indonesia.

Australian members also have active collaborations with Japanese universities such as recent visits by staff and students from Kagawa Nutrition University (Tokyo) to QUT Nutrition and Dietetics (Brisbane).

The Australian regional office encourages the exchange of staff and students. Prof Philip Baker recently made presentations at the Yonsei University and Health Insurance Review and Assessment - Korea on the Cochrane Review examining interventions for the prevention of abuse in the elderly. This is partnership of QUT and University of Malaya.

Australian members are highly engaged with the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health to ensure its success. Both Prof Collin Binns (Curtin) and Prof Dunne (QUT) serve in editorial roles. Other Australians undertake peer-review, submit articles and promote the Journal.

In May 2017 Prof Baker represented APACPH at the CAPHIA's (Council of Academic Public Health Institutions) Australia's Sideline Session at the world Congress on Public Health held in Melbourne, Australia. This meeting provided one of the first opportunities to hear from other organisation similar to APACPH that are engaged with public health teaching and research.

Participants in addition to APACPH included:

- CAPHIA (host)
- The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region/World Federation of Public Health Associations
- Royal Society for Public Health
- Network of Schools and Programs of Population and Public Health - Canada
- Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa.

Noted from the meeting:

- APACPH activities and priorities are consistent with international practice.
- Accreditation also appears on the agenda of other organisations (e.g. CAPHIA and Canada).
- APACPH is one of the few organisations which are engaged in accreditation.

- Most organisation actively facilitate interactions between staff of member institutions, such as CAPHIA's 2-day forum to share ideas and seed collaboration between member institutions.
- Most organisations are facing challenges working in public health.
- Most organisations are helping their members develop a shared understanding of competencies of public health graduates.
- Most organisations a have a strong focus on enhancing teaching and learning.
- APACPH is unique in that it has an established journal with SAGE (Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health).
- APACPH is longer established than most other organisations such as CAPHIA and Canada.
- APACPH is unique in that its membership is drawn from countries having a diversity of economic factors and health care systems (e.g. from under-developed to highly developed).
- Of note, CAPHIA appears as world leader with its emphasis of Indigenous people and the partnership with the Public Health Indigenous Leadership in Education (PHILE) program. APACPH may wish to consider the applicability of CAPHIA's approach.

The joint meeting provided the opportunity to connect personally and engage in further discussions with the organisations' executives. Several member universities of these international organisations were also in attendance (e.g. McMaster (Canada) and University of Sydney (Australia)).

Contact: p2.baker@qut.edu.au 19/7/2017