



VicHealth staff

Top: Antony Balmain, Philippa McLean, Therese Riley, Irene Verins, Betty Bougas, Lyn Walker, Dee Basinski, Michael Flood and consultant Geof Webb.

Middle: Kerryn O'Rourke and Brian Vandenberg.

Bottom: Shelley Salter, John Strachan, Shelley Maher and Vanessa Phillips.

Policy submissions and consultations

A key component of VicHealth's role in health promotion is advocacy. An important part of this advocacy role is responding to proposed government programs, policy and legislation that have the potential to have an impact on health. Over the 2008–09 financial year, VicHealth has made and contributed to numerous submissions on a range of issues.

Submission to the New South Wales Office of Liquor, Gambling & Racing on the *NSW Draft Liquor Promotion Guidelines*
31 August 2008

Submission to the *Victorian Tobacco Control Strategy 2008–2013*
18 September 2008

Submission to the Victorian Multicultural Commission on the *Victorian Government Multicultural Policy Discussion Paper 2008*
October 2008

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into *Food Production in Australia*
October 2008

Submission to the Commonwealth Government *Independent Review of Sport in Australia*
October 2008

Submission to the Victorian Department of Justice on *Regulatory Impact Statement – Review of Liquor Licensing Fees*
10 November 2008

Submission to Public Accounts and Estimates Committee on Auditor General's audit findings and recommendations on *Promoting Better Health through Healthy Eating and Physical Activity*
14 November 2008

Submission to Australia's Future Tax System Review Panel on *Alcohol Taxation*
November 2008

Submission to a workshop convened by the Brotherhood of St Laurence in conjunction with the Centre for Work and Life and University of South Australia on *Australian Social Inclusion Policy*
November 2008

Submissions to Preventative Health Taskforce on *Health promotion, tobacco, alcohol and obesity*
2 January 2009

Submission to Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) on the *Victorian Aboriginal Health Plan*
20 January 2009

Submission to Growth Area Authority on the *Consultation Draft – Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines*
29 January 2009

Submission in conjunction with the Obesity Policy Coalition to the Federal Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for the *Review of the Privacy Act 1988*
January 2009

Submission to Department of Planning and Community Development on *Retail Policy Review*
3 March 2009

Submission in conjunction with the Obesity Policy Coalition to Food Regulation Secretariat on *Front of Pack Labelling Policy Guidelines*
24 March 2009

Submission to Department of Planning and Community Development on *Modernising Victoria's Planning Act*
8 May 2009

Committees and Working Groups

Chief Executive Officer – Todd Harper

- Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics – School of Population Health, University of Melbourne (*Member*)
- Go For Your Life Leadership Group (*Member*)
- Heart Foundation National Marketing Advisory Committee (*Member*)
- International Network of Health Promotion Foundations (INHPF) (*Deputy Chair*)
- Liquor Control Advisory Council (LCAC) (*Member*)
- LCAC Licensing Criteria Sub-committee (*Member*)
- Quit Victoria Steering Committee (*Member*)
- Tobacco Control Unit Steering Committee, Cancer Council Victoria (*Member*)
- Alcohol Policy Coalition Management Group (*Member*)
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Prevention Council (*Member*)
- WorkHealth Advisory Group (*Member*)
- National Preventative Health Taskforce – Alcohol Working Group (*Member*)

Active Communities and Healthy Eating

International

- Walk21 – Walk to School International Network

National

- Active After School Communities Victorian Advisory Committee
- Child Friendly Cities Executive Committee

State

- AFL Violence Against Women Working Group
- Cancer Council Victoria, Kids Go For Your Life Local Government Advisory Committee
- Cancer Council Victoria, Kids Go For Your Life Program Advisory Committee
- Deakin University, Academic Advisory Board for Master of Planning Course
- Deakin University, C-PAN (Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition) Reference Group
- Deakin University, Post-graduate Nutrition Advisory Committee
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victorian School Sport Council
- DHS 'Equal Footing' Advisory Group
- DHS 'Go for your life' Strategy Group
- DHS Nutrition Action Plan Working Group
- DHS Physical Activity Action Plan Working Group
- DPCD–SRV Interagency Walking and Cycling Coordination Committee
- DPCD–SRV Smartplay Steering Committee
- DPCD–SRV Spectator Behaviour in Sport Working Party

- La Trobe University, Bachelor of Health Sciences Course Advisory Committee
- Maribyrnong Secondary College, Sporting Excellence Curriculum Reference Group
- VicRoads Victorian Bicycle Advisory Council
- Victoria University's Exercise Science, Human Movement and Physical Education Industry Advisory Committee

Local/project specific

- Bicycle Victoria, Ride2School Steering Committee
- Consultative Committee for the Healthy Active Brimbank Strategy
- Growth Areas Authority, A Strategic Framework for Creating Liveable New Communities
- Planning Institute of Australia (Vic) Steering Committee

Awards/grant assessment

- DPCD – Sport and Recreation Industry Awards Assessment Panel

Mental Health and Wellbeing International

- Global Consortium for Advancement of Promotion and Prevention

National

- AFL Violence Against Women Respect & Responsibility Committee
- National Anti-Racism Project Advisory Group
- National Coalition Against Bullying Executive Committee
- National Council for Reducing Violence Against Women

State

- Adult Multicultural Education Service (Board Member)
- African Youth Issues Sub-committee
- Centre for Ethnicity and Health, Stakeholders Group
- DHS Mental Health Promotion Working Group
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Health Sub-committee
- McCaughey Centre: The VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit Committee
- Statewide Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Assault
- Statewide Violence Against Women Steering Committee
- Victorian Federation of Secondary Teachers Refugee Health Network
- Victorian Settlement Planning Committee
- White Ribbon Day, Victorian Steering Committee

Local/project specific

- Community Indicators Victoria Project Partners Group (McCaughey Centre)
- Community Indicators Victoria Project Reference Group (McCaughey Centre)
- Fellowship for Indigenous Leaders Project Committee (Brotherhood)
- Good Start Arts Project Advisory Group (Foundation House)
- Local Government Violence Prevention Project Advisory Group (University of Melbourne)
- Mothers' Advocates in the Community Project Reference Group (La Trobe)
- Refugee Education Partnership Project Reference Group (Foundation House)
- Schools as Core Social Centres Project Advisory Group (Catholic Education)
- Train Stations as Creative Community Hubs Project Committee (Department of Transport)
- Understanding Women's Experience of Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Project Advisory Group (University of Melbourne)
- Violence Against Women Working Group (AFL Victoria)

Tobacco Control and Alcohol Harm Reduction

State

- Alcohol Policy Coalition Management Group (Member)
- Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society Advisory Committee
- Community Alcohol Action Network (CAAN) Advisory Committee
- Good Sports Program (Victoria) Victorian Funders Advisory Committee
- Tobacco Control Unit (TCU) Steering Committee (Cancer Council Victoria)
- Victoria Police Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee
- Victorian Alcohol Action Plan (VAAP) Data Collection Systems Analysis Steering Group
- Victorian Alcohol Action Plan (VAAP) Research and Evaluation Group
- Victorian Koori Alcohol Action Plan (KAAP) Reference Group
- Ross Trust Alcohol Pathways Project (Australian Institute of Family Studies)

National

- National Preventative Health Taskforce – Alcohol Working Group (Member)
- FebFast Fund Management Committee

Research, Strategy and Policy International

- International Network of Health Promotion Foundations

National

- Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies Consumer Engagement Project Steering Group

State

- Centre for Health and Society Advisory Committee
- Common Solutions Project Steering Committee
- Dental Health Service Research Advisory Panel
- DHS Health Promotion Framework Project Advisory Group
- DHS Health Promotion Priorities Management Group
- DHS HIV/AIDS Prevention Taskforce
- DHS Men's Health and Wellbeing Strategy Advisory Committee
- DHS Public Health Research Advisory Group
- Victorian Cancer Agency, Research Prevention Working Group
- Victorian Consortium of Public Health Consultative Committee
- Victorian Health Care Association, Population Health and Area-based Planning Working Group
- Victorian Public Health Training Scheme Review Steering Committee

Communications and Marketing

State

- Risk Awareness and Reduction Working Group – Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council
- LIFE! Taking Action on Diabetes Social Marketing Committee

Local/project specific

- Medianet Communications Group

From Margins to Mainstream Conference, 10–12 September 2008



When 850 mental health experts from around the world gathered in Melbourne last September to look at the many issues surrounding mental health – and not just at direct treatment, but the social and economic factors that affect our mental wellbeing – they stimulated state, national and international collaboration to advance research, policy and practice.



From Margins to Mainstream: 5th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders was a first for Australia and clearly demonstrated the diverse, global and cross-sectoral nature of mental health promotion and prevention activity today.

The line-up of speakers was first class and included Victorian Premier, The Hon. John Brumby; Minister for Mental Health, The Hon. Lisa Neville; Kate Gilmore, Executive Deputy Secretary-General of Amnesty International; Dr Carles Muntaner, a global expert on health inequalities and workplace stress; Dr Garth Japhet, creator of South Africa's Soul City program; and Karma Tshiteem, Secretary of the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan.

There were ground-breaking presentations on topics including violence against women, race-based discrimination, workplace stress, social isolation and health inequalities – all of which incur massive social and financial costs and are preventable.

One of the major outcomes was the development of the first international Mental Health Promotion Charter, the Melbourne Charter for promoting and preventing mental and behavioural disorders.



From Margins to Mainstream was hosted by VicHealth and organised by the World Federation for Mental Health, the Mental Health Program of The Carter Center, The Clifford Beers Foundation and VicHealth. The conference is the biannual event of the Global Consortium for the Advancement of Promotion and Prevention in Mental Health (GCAPP).

- The Melbourne Charter, conference papers and audio will be available on the VicHealth website from October 2009.
- *VicHealth Letter*, Issue No. 34 (Autumn 2009) provides a snapshot of some of the issues arising at the conference. Visit: vichealth.vic.gov.au/vichealthletter; or phone VicHealth on (03) 9667 1333 to request a hard copy.

Above from left: Karma Tshiteem, Secretary of the Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan; Dr Melika Yassin Sheikh-Eldin, AMES Community and Settlement Services; Social Participation Plenary.