

# SDOHA

## NEWS

13 February 2015

As this is the first newsletter for 2015 belated Happy New Year to all! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday break.

### **Items for Circulation from Members**

#### ***SDOHA advocacy***

At its January meeting, the SDOHA Management Committee approved a formal request from Homelessness Australia for SDOHA to sign on to an open letter to the Australian Government Minister for Social Services regarding funding for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. The open letter was signed by over 50 organisations and that published in The Australian and the Canberra Times on Monday 9 February. Click [link](#) to open letter.

SDOHA Chair Michael Moore has also written to the Chair and Members of the Standing Council on Health (SCoH) reiterating our previous proposal for SCoH endorsement of the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry report on Australia's domestic response to the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, and active participation in their implementation.

#### ***World Social Marketing Conference (Sydney, 19-21 April 2015)***

Marketing for Change is a discount on registration to the above event. This discount can be obtained by entering "wsmmfc" at time of registration. Please click [here](#) for full conference details.

#### ***SDOHA Members Strategic Planning Meeting (Sydney, 19 February 2015)***

Registration to the above event is now closed. Outcomes of the Strategic Planning Meeting will be reported to all members on finalisation.

#### ***2015 SDOHA Member Meeting dates***

Please pencil in the following dates for the SDOHA Member meetings and Public Forums in 2015:

- Thursday 19 February – Sydney (as above – SDOHA Members only)
- Thursday 7 May – Canberra (SDOHA Members Meeting and Public Forum)
- Thursday 13 August – (SDOHA AGM – other details TBA)
- Thursday 15 October – Anti Poverty Week Address (SDOHA Members Meeting and Public Forum) – date and venue TBC

#### ***Membership of SDOHA***

Full membership is open to organisations that agree with the Alliance's purpose and principles; abide by the Alliance's terms of reference; and consistently and regularly attend Alliance meetings. Individuals can also be listed on the SDOHA website as supporters of the Alliance. Further information is available on the "Who We Are" page of the website at [www.socialdeterminants.org.au](http://www.socialdeterminants.org.au).

#### ***Invitation to contribute to the SDOHA Blog***

We are seeking Blog posts – to be published on the website - from member organisations, either commenting on key issues/current events or showcasing work that your organisation is undertaking in relation to the social determinants of health. Please forward Blog posts to Anne Brown, SDOHA Coordinator at [accounts@phaa.net.au](mailto:accounts@phaa.net.au) .

### **News Items of Interest**

Media items of interest over the past two weeks included:

#### **12 February 2015**

##### ***Pay attention to declining health in urban areas: WHO (Big News Network.com)***

Linking habitat and life expectancy, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has stressed on the alarming situation of declining health in urban areas.

Paul Rosenberg, WHO's technical officer for urban health, said India would be 50 percent urban by 2050 and with China and Nigeria, would comprise over 37 percent growth in the world's urban population. Click [here](#) for full article.

##### ***Indigenous health: improving but still embarrassing (Hospital & Agedcare)***

THE GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY rates between non-indigenous Australians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) is closing, slowly, with ATSI males now living around 19 months more than they did in 2007, and women living an additional seven months. Click [here](#) for full article.

#### **11 February 2015**

##### ***Closing the Gap in education report card: needs improvement (The Conversation)***

This year's update on Closing the Gap presents a picture similar to 2014 in education - there is much work still to be done to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Click [here](#) for full article.

##### ***Primary health care key to closing the gap (Medianet)***

The AMA welcomed the Close the Gap Campaign Report and the Prime Minister's Closing the Gap Report as important reminders of how much more needs to be done to genuinely close the life expectancy and health quality gaps experienced by Indigenous Australians. Click [here](#) for full article.

##### ***Investing in Closing the Gap is a public health priority (Medianet)***

The PHAA supported the Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee in acknowledging the gains made by the Australian Government in reducing the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians. Click [here](#) for full article.

#### **9 February 2015**

##### ***'Transphobe' Greer to speak at All About Women Festival, but where are the trans voices? (SameSame.com.au)***

Members of Australia's transgender communities are calling on the organisers of the [All About Women Festival](#) at the Sydney Opera House in March to explain why not one single trans woman is confirmed to speak at the festival. Click [here](#) for full article.

#### **6 February 2015**

##### ***A tribute to Tim Moore, and his wide-ranging contributions to community health (Croakey)***

It is with great sadness that we reflect on the sudden passing of Timothy David Moore late last year. While we are all devastated by Tim's loss, those of us who knew him are keen to shine a light on his many professional achievements. Click [here](#) for full article.

#### **5 February 2015**

##### ***Promoting the inclusion of Afghan women and men in research: Reflections from research and community partners involved in implementing a 'proof of concept' project – IJEH (Brotherhood of St Laurence)***

With mounting evidence that poor maternal and child health outcomes are related to the social determinants of health, researchers need to engage with vulnerable and isolated communities to gather the evidence that is essential to determine appropriate solutions. Click [here](#) for full article.

**1 February 2015**

***Bid to save foundation (The Examiner)***

A decision to cut the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation from legislation and drain its \$500,000 funding has been met with fierce opposition from the Early Years Action Group, which promises to prevent the foundation's demise. Click [here](#) for full article.

***WHI releases new Special Collection on Women's Heart Health (The Medical News)***

Today the peer-reviewed journal *Women's Health Issues* (WHI) released a new Special Collection on Women's Heart Health, with a focus on improving healthcare services to women at risk for cardiovascular disease. The special collection also highlights recent studies addressing social determinants of health and physical activity in women of different backgrounds. Click [here](#) for full article.

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