



Pilot WA Public Health Officer Training Program (WAPHOTP) Communique April 2022: Edition #1

The Pilot [WA Public Health Officer Training Program](#) (WAPHOTP) for 2022 commenced on 2 March.

This year we have 14 trainees, who are employed both locally and regionally across various health service providers including *WA Country Health Service, Public Health Operations, State Health Incident Coordination Centre, Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control*

Alumni from the 2021 WAPHOTP, Whitney Melville and Rourke Jackson, opened our first teaching and learning activity by sharing their reflections on 'getting the most out of the WAPHOTP'. This was followed by a presentation on visual communication by Dr Gabriela Willis and our first Health Leader speaker for the year, Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General WA Health.

HEALTH LEADER SPEAKER SERIES

The WAPHOTP has commenced a series of Health Leader Speakers at each session outlining their career journey throughout the healthcare system. Trainees have had the privilege of hearing the following speakers thus far:

- Dr David Russell-Weisz – Director General, WA Health
- Dr Denise Sullivan, Assistant Director General, Public and Aboriginal Health Division
- Dr Robyn Lawrence, Assistant Director General, Clinical Strategy & Planning, Department of Health
- Ms Lisa Bastian, Program Manager, Department of Health
- Ms Jo-Anne Morgan, Program Manager Public Health, Population Health, WA Country Health Services
- Ms Karen Strange, Founder and Chairperson, Wheatbelt and Beyond Youth Mentoring



2022 WAPHOTP Trainees and Staff at 8 April Fieldtrip to Northam with respected elder Kathleen Davis.

NORTHAM FIELDTRIP

The trainees and training program coordinators recently went to Northam in the Wheatbelt Region. As part of the fieldtrip the trainees were welcomed and learned on country with Respected Elder Kathleen Davis. The trainees also spent time at the Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge.

The group listened to stories of old and recent, and had the opportunity to yarn at the Corroboree Ground, where they also enjoyed the artwork designed by local school children. The trip aimed to introduce the trainees to the competency areas: communicable diseases, health promotion and prevention, cultural competencies and Aboriginal health.

The Wheatbelt Public Health Unit provided the following learning activities:

- Overview of the Wheatbelt Public Health Unit, Regina Michel-Huessy, Director
- Disease Control Workshop, Anne Foyer and Di Rifici, Public Health Nurses
- 'The Wheat Family' Chronic Disease Workshop, Karen Beardsmoore, Chronic Conditions Coordinator
- Presentation on Aboriginal Health and Workshop, Karen Beardsmoore and Delys Dick, Senior Aboriginal Health Worker



Workshop Wheatbelt Public Health Unit

THANK YOU to the Line Managers

The WAPHOTP Team and Trainees would like to thank the respective trainees Line Managers for supporting them in this traineeship program:

- Julius Aasberg Pipirs - Royal Perth Bentley Group
- Jude Bevan - Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD)
- Chantal Ferguson - Public Health Operations (PHOps)
- Carolien Giele - Public & Aboriginal Health Communicable Disease Control
- Maree Hose – PHOps
- Colleen Inoue - Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service
- Andrew Jardine – PHOps
- Pippa May - Kimberley Public Health Unit
- Merowyn Pilgrim - State Health Incident Control Centre (SHICC)
- Ben Scalley - Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control (MCDC)/ PHOps

UPCOMING EVENTS

The trainees will have the opportunity to participate in the Game of Greater Good, a simulation of health care resource allocation, in partnership with students from the Rural Clinical School of WA on 11 May 2022 and attend the Sexual health and Blood Borne Virus Research and Evaluation Network (SiREN) Symposium on 24 June 2022 <https://www.sirensymposium.com/event-details-1>

THE TRAINEES / THE MENTORS

Trainees have each been allocated a mentor comprising of highly skilled senior healthcare professionals throughout Australia.

Cassandra MacArthur,
Project Support Officer, SHICC



Mike Daube AO, Emeritus Professor,
Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University



Melissa Coci,
Program Officer, CDCD



Martyn Kirk, Professor and NHMRC Career
Development Fellow, The Australian National
University



Sharon Vulimu,
Registered Nurse, PHOps



Laura Kirkland, Principal Epidemiologist, Public and
Aboriginal Health, WA Department of Health



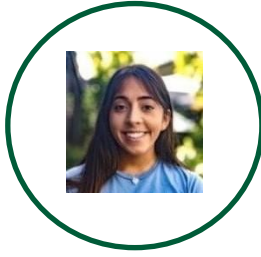
Maddison Hall,
Public Health Registrar,
Kimberley Public Health Unit



Gabriela Willis, Consultant, Public Health Medicine,
MCCD/PHOps



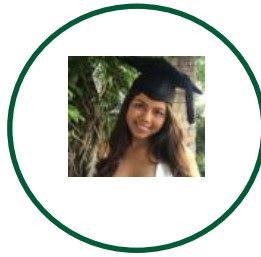
Gracie Edwards,
Project Officer – Major Projects Capital
Royal Perth Bentley Group



Denise Sullivan, A/Assistant Director General,
Public and Aboriginal Health,
WA Department of Health



Nicole Cota, Surveillance Officer, PHOps



Allison Salmon, Head, Allison Salmon Consulting



Stacey Hong, Epidemiologist, PHOps



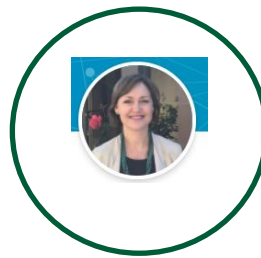
Lauren Bloomfield, Epidemiologist, CDCD



Nicola Ball, Public Health Registrar, PHOps



Krista Coward, Manager, Health Promotion,
North Metropolitan Health Service



Iolanda Shaker, Surveillance Officer, PHOps



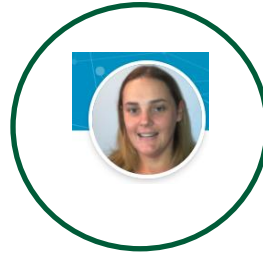
Shireen Martin, Director Integrated Care
Implementation, NSW Health



Patricia Gurney,
Clinical Nurse, PHOps



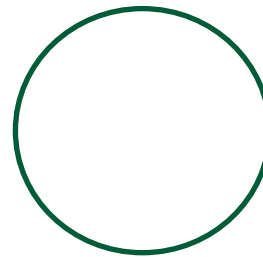
Lisa McCallum, Principal Analyst and Manager,
NSW Ministry of Health



Tracie Chong, Epidemiologist, MCDC



George Truman, Public Health Epidemiologist,
Sydney West Area Health Service/ Nepean Blue
Mountains Local Health District



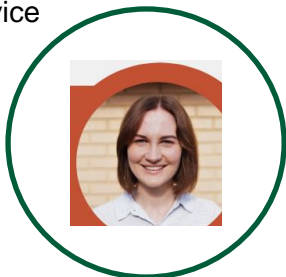
Luke Librizzi,
Public Health Registrar, PHOps



Bruce Armstrong AM, Emeritus Professor
Public Health, School of Public Health,
University of Sydney



Joanne O'Dea,
Health Promotion Officer, Wheatbelt Aboriginal
Health Service



Maurice Swanson AOM, Executive Director,
Australian Council on Smoking and Health



Rashmi Rauniyar, Epidemiologist, Public Health
Intelligence, MCDC



Jo-Anne Morgan, Program Manager Public Health,
WA Country Health Service



**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with disability.**

© Department of Health 2022

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.