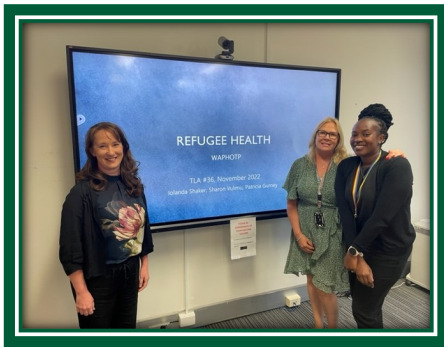




Pilot WA Public Health Officer Training Program (WAPHOTP) Communiqué 2 December 2022

WAPHOTP TRAINEE-LED EDUCATION SESSIONS 2022

The final weeks of the WA Public Health Officer Training Program provided trainees to prepare trainee-led education sessions:



15 November: 'Refugee Health'



16 November: 'Harm Reduction for STIs and Blood Borne Viruses'

HEALTH LEADER SPEAKER SERIES

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our Health Leader Speakers over 2022 who have reflected on their career journey throughout the healthcare system. Trainees had the privilege of hearing the following health leaders in recent weeks:

- Dr Gary Dowse, Consultant – Public Health Medicine
- Dr Joanna Fagan, Director Public Health.

WAPHOTP GRADUATION 2022

As 2022 draws to a close, so does the second year of the pilot WA Public Health Office Training Program. The program's graduation ceremony was held on Wednesday, 23 November 2022 and included speeches from Dr Clare Huppertz (Deputy Chief Health Officer, WA Health), Professor Martyn Kirk (NHMRC Career Development Fellow The Australian National University) and Joanne O'Dea (WAPHOTP Trainee 2022).



TRAINEE'S FAREWELLS



Patricia Gurney
Nurse Educator
Sir Charles Gairdner
Osborne Park Health Care

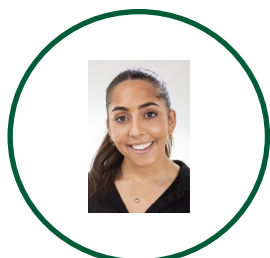
As the 2022 WA Public Health Officer Training Programme comes to an end, it has allowed to me to reflect on what has been an incredible journey of learning and personal development. The programme has been pivotal in starting the next stage of my career into Public Health.

On joining the WAPHOTP, I was working as an Acting Clinical Nurse Manager in Public Health Operations (PHOps), as part of WA's Response to COVID-19. Before this

I had worked for many years in acute care and nursing education, then transitioned into academic teaching in the Schools of Nursing, Midwifery and then Medicine. The latter roles included portfolios of primary health care and rural and remote clinical skills. All these experiences were paving the way towards public health care. This course has changed my career trajectory: I am now piloting a programme into the rapid upskilling of nurses into renal dialysis care.

PHOps provided me with first-hand pandemic work and allowed me to engage with health professionals I would normally never have directly engaged with. However, it was the WAPHOTP that put the framework of public health together in a holistic way and allowed me to collaborate more fully with trainees from different disciplines. This has allowed me to professionally network. I have been so fortunate to have had Health Leaders, guest speakers and mentors take the time to cheerfully guide our group and remain so approachable. The Programme Coordinators have provided me with meaningful fieldtrips and encouraged me to move out my comfort zone to grow and critically think about health challenges and my role within it.

Our group of trainees and coordinators have formed a strong collegial bond. It has been wonderful to watch us grow and develop into new roles. We now have meaningful professional relationships going into the future. I am so grateful for this programme and wish its continuing success.



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

I commenced my participation in 2022 WAPHOTP training program whilst working in Quarantine Management operations in the COVID response at the State Health Incident Coordination Centre. After finishing my Masters in Public Health in 2021 including a dissertation focusing on the community response to WA's COVID-19 vaccination program, I have now moved on to working as a Project Officer in the Office of the Executive Director for Royal Perth Bentley Group. Primarily, I am currently working to commission new mental health services in inpatient and community-based settings. As I near the end of the program, I reflect on the numerous invaluable experiences that I have had and great relationships I formed throughout.

Of note, I have loved getting the opportunity to interact with a diverse range of public health trainees through to expert representative guest speakers. It just goes to show how broad and individually significant, whilst intertwined all aspects of public health are. I would like to thank all my fellow trainees for being so admirable throughout the program as well as the coordinators, mentors and guest speakers for facilitating the experience.

THANK YOU FROM THE WAPHOTP COORDINATION TEAM

The WAPHOTP Coordination Team are grateful for Dr Ben Scalley's for his foresight and initiative in establishing a pilot public health training program whilst he was leading the operational pandemic response. We also thank Dr Clare Huppatz for her continued support for the program while the DoHWA transitioned from an emergency pandemic response to business as usual. Thanks all the trainees who ventured on this program, for their dedication, enthusiasm and engagement with learning; to all the guest presenters and placements hosts for the invaluable learning opportunities you created; and to trainee's line managers and mentors who provided support, guidance and many pearls of wisdom along the way.

As we reflect on the past nine months and the challenges this year has posed with the peak of the pandemic, and the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency, we are reminded of a few of the program's achievements this year:

- Aboriginal health placements in government and Aboriginal community-controlled health services North Metropolitan Health Service
- Health leader speaker's series in which health leaders including Mr Jim McGinty AM, former Attorney-General and Minister for Health (2003-2008); Ms Judi Stone, Manager Workforce Development, Mental Health Commission and Dr Vinesh Gupta, Medical Co-Director, Mental Health Division, Royal Perth Bentley Group shared their career journeys and advice for future public health practitioners/leaders
- Rural field trips including Northam learning on Ballardong Noongar Boodja Country with the Respected Elder and the Wheatbelt Public Health Unit and Bunbury learning on Wardandi Noongar Boodja Country with Respected Elder and the South West Public Health Unit
- Trainee-led education sessions and activities covering a broad range of public health competencies including professional practice, cultural competence, policy, health promotion and prevention, epidemiology, communicable disease, evaluation and evidence.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact of the program on public health workforce quality and sustainability in Western Australia and thank the Curtin University evaluation team for their continued work assessing and evaluating the program.

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity, time and support in 2022. All your contributions have played a vital role in the success of the pilot program. We look forward to working in partnership with you again in the future.



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