



21 YEARS

HEALTH PROMOTION
SCHOLARSHIPS IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ENDURING PARTNERSHIPS

Welcome to a celebration of 21 years of an enduring partnership between Healthway and the Australian Health Promotion Association (WA Branch); a one of its kind in Australia. This scholarship program has provided opportunities for more than 70 recipients in this time to build a health promotion project from scratch that they are passionate about at the same time as developing practical health promotion skills and getting a kick start to their career.

On behalf of AHPA (WA Branch) I congratulate all of our past successful scholarship recipients and trust that the stories shared in this book will inspire new applicants to continue being part of this unique initiative.

Jonathan Hallett
Scholarships Coordinator
November 2013



21 YEARS OF THE AHPA (WA BRANCH) HEALTHWAY HEALTH PROMOTION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our first employment after full time education is a significant landmark in our lives, and the experience – good or bad - may stay with us a long time. The first job is profoundly important in putting into practice for the first time what we learned through study, extending our skills and learning from more experienced colleagues. However, gaining our first job is not always easy when employers want applicants with workplace experience.

Building health promotion capacity in WA has been an important priority for Healthway since its inception in 1991. Twenty one years ago Healthway approached the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) in WA and suggested working together on a new program that would build health promotion capacity in the community and support promising new health promotion graduates to enter the profession. Offering a limited number of scholarships each year enables graduates to gain experience in a suitable organisation through a six-month full-time position on a health promotion project under the supervision of an experienced manager.

Healthway regards the scholarship program as much more than a professional development opportunity. Not only does it support newly qualified health promotion professionals to launch their careers, it has also helped to enhance health promotion capacity within agencies hosting scholarship holders, particularly in the early years. Some agencies whose main functions were service delivery or community support were supported to plan health promotion projects for potential scholarship applicants. In some cases scholarship holders developed new health promotion resources used by host agencies long after the end of the scholarship and others piloted programs that were later rolled out more widely. A number of scholarship holders proved so valuable that the agency continued to employ them beyond the scholarship.

Early on, the program was enhanced significantly with the introduction of culturally appropriate scholarships for Aboriginal people. The criteria were more flexible to suit Aboriginal professionals from a wider range

of backgrounds with an interest in health promotion. As the examples in this publication illustrate, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) scholarships have provided a great stepping stone into a health promotion career for a number of Aboriginal professionals in WA.

Healthway is proud and pleased to be working with AHPA (WA Branch) on the scholarships initiative and the stories in this book are testament to the success of the program over the last 21 years. As we look to the future, the program promises to continue delivering great results and the introduction of a revised ATSI scholarships program in 2014 brings renewed opportunities to encourage more Aboriginal people into a career in health promotion.

Dr Jo Clarkson

Director, Health Promotion

Healthway



A photograph of a park with a winding path and many trees. The path is paved and curves through a lush green landscape. Several large trees with dense foliage line the path, casting shadows on the grass. In the background, a small stone monument is visible on the left side of the path.

” ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Alice came to a fork in the road.

‘Which one will I take?’ she asked.

‘Where do you want to go?’
responded the Cheshire Cat.

‘I don’t know’ Alice answered.

‘Then,’ said the cat, ‘It doesn’t matter.’

21 YEARS THE SUCCESS OF SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIPS & INVESTMENT

One of the wonderful things about working in health promotion is that there are many possible pathways to pursue your passions and dreams. However, first you need to get your foot in the door. There are often limited entry level health promotion opportunities for new graduates and Aboriginal people within Western Australia, and if we know anything about growing a vibrant workforce able to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing health landscape, it is that sustained investment, organisational support and strong partnerships are required.

In 1993, an innovative partnership was formed between the WA Branch of the Australian Health Promotion Association (AHPA) and the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway) to build sector capacity and transition early career practitioners to long term careers in health promotion. Since then, 78 scholarships have been awarded, including to 25 Aboriginal recipients, representing a commitment of almost \$2 million of funding provided by Healthway to the AHPA (WA Branch).

This funding provides four six-month scholarships annually, including wages, professional development and mentoring for each recipient to conduct health promotion projects within a relevant organisation. Evaluation demonstrates that recipients develop a broad range of health promotion competencies under the supervision of senior health promotion practitioners. The program continues to provide opportunities for early career practitioners to conduct evidence based health promotion practice, policy and research; receiving a supported “taste of health promotion”. For many, it solidifies the pathway that they will take for their future career.

The program has survived and thrived in a landscape of increasing challenges to workforce capacity. Public health funding in Australia remains less than 2% of all health expenditure and several states have experienced systematic dismantlement of their preventive health workforce. However this program has contributed to the sustainability of the health promotion workforce in WA with recipients securing ongoing health promotion

employment including in senior positions with the Cancer Council WA, Department of Health and Curtin University. The program has collaborated with 50 government agencies, non-government organisations and tertiary institutions to host recipients, including those that traditionally see health promotion to be outside their remit.

The Scholarship Program has worked in action over 21 years and would not have succeeded if not for the hard work, innovation and dedication of current and past committee members, supporters, mentors, project officers and participating individuals and agencies. The AHPA (WA Branch) thanks Healthway for their ongoing support and partnership. As Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Gemma Crawford
President
AHPA (WA Branch)



MATTHEW TWEEDIE / SUPERVISOR**DIRECTOR, PHARMACY GUILD (WA BRANCH)****Year, place and student**

1993, Asthma WA, Jonine Jancey

Can you briefly describe your experience as the supervisor of an AHPA Scholarship recipient?

I remember that the experience was mostly that it added a source of expertise the Foundation could never have employed if left to its own resources. Jonine was a pleasure to have as an employee and we were really dipping our toe into the water of health promotion at that point in time. She provided the certainty and confidence that we could do more and from that point the Foundation began to focus on attracting health promotion graduates. It gave us insight and positioned us to develop strategic collaborations which later turned into projects and resources.

What was the most rewarding occurrence/event for you as a supervisor?

Moving to a point where the Foundation was a serious player in the health promotion field. Several projects turned into sustainable programs. The newborn anti-smoking campaign (NAPS) is one that still survives to this day and has expanded over the years. The starting point

was taking on these graduates and scholarship holders. We eventually won Healthway funded prevention projects – something we did not believe was possible when we started as we were not, at that point in time, a preventive agency.

Would you change anything about how you supervised your emerging professional?

If we had more capacity as a health promotion agency at that time we would have offered better employee prospects. We did not have sustainable projects. We could not offer advancement or promotion prospects. It limited what we could do. I felt at times we were unable to use the expertise we had to the best advantage. As we grew we developed the capacity to collaborate and design programs that fitted the health promotion model and we could offer scholarship holders a richer experience. As it was, Jonine used her skills to push the organisation to both ours and her benefit.

Why do you think that these types of scholarships are worthwhile for producing future health promotion professionals?

The return is mutual. Organisations gain access to skills and expertise they may not have

or need but cannot afford, and graduates gain exposure to the world of work and the realities of turning theory into practice. The scholarships limit the risk the employer takes. I doubt the Asthma Foundation of WA would have ever implemented a health promotion approach without taking on a scholarship holder. It ultimately grew the diversity and scope of the Foundation.

” MELITA LEEDS

It is still an experience I speak very highly of today and I am always recommending the Health Promotion Scholarships to students who undertake professional practice.

1993

COMMENCEMENT OF
THE GRADUATE HEALTH
PROMOTION SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM



1993

ASSUNTA DI FRANCESCO DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFICE

Assunta coordinated the development of a hepatitis C brochure for consumers. Little information was available for consumers and health professionals during the early 1990s. The scholarship provided an opportunity to address an identified need and develop a resource to raise community awareness.

Assunta has subsequently worked in roles including the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit supporting health services within the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) to implement the Smoke-Free WA Health System (SFWAHS) Policy. Most recently she has been working with the Shire of Manjimup as a Project Officer on an Alcohol Management Project.

“The experience me the opportunity to put health promotion theory into practice. I found the experience thoroughly enjoyable and professionally rewarding.”

1994

DR JONINE JANCEY ASTHMA FOUNDATION WA

Jonine worked on a Vietnamese Asthma project which is a community based asthma program for Vietnamese people residing in the Perth metropolitan area. The project also involved community education, asthma camp, and national asthma conference.

Jonine has since worked with the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) and Curtin University. Most recently Jonine has undertaken roles with the Chronic Disease Directorate in the Department of Health and as Director of the WA Centre for Health Promotion Research. Jonine has been President of the Public Health Association of Australia (WA Branch) and is the Editor in Chief of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia.



DR JONINE JANCEY

The scholarship provided me with range of work experiences and was a good stepping stone for future employment. It provided me with lots of experience, an ongoing position and a foot in the door to health promotion.

LEANNE LUNDY (NEE JACKSON)

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HEALTH REGION / KALGOORLIE BOULDER CITY COUNCIL

Leanne's scholarship project focused on implementation of the 'Healthy Choices Award' program for Kalgoorlie/Boulder. The project was a great learning opportunity to work part time in each of the Eastern Goldfields Health Region offices and Kalgoorlie Boulder City Council on a joint project.

"Through this I was able to gain experience in both a local Government and State Government environment. There were times however where the cultures of these two workplaces would clash and it required a high degree of interpersonal skills to ensure the requirements of both parties were met".

Leanne has held other positions in health promotion since her scholarship which has enabled her to develop her health promotion skills to a high level. She has subsequently held a role as Manager of Infrastructure Policy and Coordination at the Department of Health. The role involves evaluation of business cases and capital development plans and an advisory role on program management and management of risks and issues. Whilst not currently working in a health promotion focused area, her work involves a large degree of negotiation and understanding of program planning and project management.

LANI MCGUIRE

TELETHON INSTITUTE FOR CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH

Lani worked on the 'Folate and Neural Tube Defects Prevention Project'.

"This experience was invaluable and provided me with insight in to market research; campaign planning; TVC production; media relations; comprehensive evaluation....among many other issues! I worked under Lynda Blum who provided a great deal of guidance and direction. Lynda was a great mentor...we still keep in contact. The experience that I gained during my scholarship gave me some great examples to use during job interviews over the past 14 years. This experience was invaluable and it really did open many doors for me".

1995

TRINETTE DUNCAN

KIDSAFE WA

Trinette was involved with several projects including: Child Restraint Information Kit for Health Professionals; evaluation of the Kidsafe Safety Demonstration Home; Injury Surveillance System – grant writing; and Kidsafe Week. For Trinette, working in childhood injury prevention and working on strategies to reduce morbidity and mortality among children was very rewarding and extremely stimulating. She received “tremendous encouragement and support from my colleagues” in a role which was very autonomous. Trinette’s first job after the scholarship was still with Kidsafe WA.

“The scholarship helped by having the opportunity to do ‘everything’ on the job - which included evaluating campaigns & thus data analysis. It helped develop my project management skills which have been critical throughout my career!”

ANTHONY (TONY) DALE

CANCER COUNCIL WA

Tony worked on three major projects: production of skin cancer prevention speakers’ kit; production of a lower secondary education package on skin cancer; and planning for the skin cancer education van to visit North West and Wheatbelt communities in WA.

” TRINETTE DUNCAN

Most jobs aren’t ever advertised so networking is crucial to finding the opportunities. If you find an opportunity but they can’t afford to employ you - write your own job! If you’re still studying - grab every opportunity for voluntary work in the industry.

JOANNE KENNEDY

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION (WA)

Joanne’s scholarship provided her with an opportunity to get involved in a range of diverse activities and projects including: assistance with Heart Week seminars; a Heart Week radio interview; administrative assistance with the Climb to the Top stair climbing programme; administrative assistance with the Jump Rope for Heart programme; and evaluation of the use of the Heart Healthy Cook-Off Resource.

1996

BRETT MABURY

ST. JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL (SUBIACO)

Brett's AHPA Graduate Scholarship provided him with an opportunity to work at St. John of God Hospital on the 'Pathways to Health Project'.

"I was given responsibility for planning and implementing a variety of activities, including education programs, community festivals and an art poster competition".

SANDRA MICALLEF (NEE VALE)

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION (WA)

Sandra's scholarship gave her a great opportunity to work with a great team and form networks. She worked on a number of projects during her scholarship including: rewriting the School Canteen Handbook; assisting organising and co-ordinating the annual School Canteen Conference; promoting and developing the criteria to qualify for an award for healthy school canteens in both primary and high schools throughout Western Australia; coordinating a special project in Aboriginal nutrition using the school canteen as a focus for healthy eating changes; general assistance in organising Heart Week events; and investigating the feasibility of a GP patient nutrition assessment program providing patients immediate feedback on changes in eating habits. Sandra is currently employed as a nutrition consultant by a number of non-government organisations as well as conducting consultancy projects for the Department of Health.

1997

CHRISTINE ARCHIBALD

CANCER COUNCIL WA

Christine's scholarship project included: the development of a colorectal cancer education kit; a public awareness campaign; a non-English speaking background project; and developing statistical information sheets for five main cancers. Christine continued to work for the organisation for another five years and in public health until about three years ago, where she was involved in administering health professional education.

"At this stage I wanted to take a break, and redefine my life. I have been mainly involved in work relating to education, but my health promotion background continues to remain important to me and I still support the principles of the Ottawa Charter which I believe in strongly."

LARINA BROMLEY

HEPATITIS WA

The aim of Larina's project was to examine the need for training relevant to blood borne viruses for pharmacy assistants. The six month scholarship provided her with an opportunity to demonstrate the need for pharmacy assistants to have targeted training and to draft a training package to meet their needs. Larina sought future funding to stay at the organisation, to finish off the training package and to have it accredited by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (WA). A version of the package is still in use at a national level. She remained at the organisation for several years eventually resigning as Manager in 2002.

Currently Larina is a counsellor for agencies that provides support for torture and trauma survivors. She notes that health promotion is the core element of the community team; whether it is mental, physical or environmental health, "it is a holistic framework".

NATASHA FREEMAN

FREMANTLE WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE

Natasha's project was to develop a series of women's health workshops over a six month period for women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds and development of a resource file for CaLD women that included information on a variety of women's health topics in a number of different languages to be accessed by women at the centre.

"I felt very fortunate to receive the scholarship as it gave me an opportunity that I hadn't had previously, that of working in a Health Promotion team situation and seeing how other health professionals and non-health professionals utilised health promotion. The good thing about the scholarship at the time was that it followed on immediately after completing my Health Promotion studies and therefore it helped to clarify theories that I learned."



NATASHA FREEMAN

It was a very practical, hands-on experience in planning, implementing and evaluating a health promotion program and activities while still being in a situation of support and supervision.

1998

MARCIA ALLISON

ARTHRITIS & OSTEOPOROSIS WA

For her scholarship experience, Marcia was involved with two major projects. The first project was the 'Osteoporosis and Men's Awareness Program' and the second was the 'Arthritis Awareness Campaign'.

In addition to the two major projects she was also involved in assisting the organisation with Arthritis Awareness week, the production of flyers and media articles, the development of fact sheets, setting up Healthy Bones week, leadership training for self-management courses and assisting with various other events.

JEN O'REILLY

KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Jen worked on the 'Water Works' project for her scholarship. The project involved the development, production and distribution of an education package for lower primary students emphasising the importance of water to health, particularly kidney health.

FIONA PHILLIPS (NEE EDWARDS)

KIDSAFE WA

Fiona planned, implemented and evaluated a pilot program (a child restraint checking service) in the Perth metropolitan area. This involved applying for funding from Roadwise to pilot the program over a six-month period.

Fiona is now the Policy, Advocacy and Research Coordinator with the Cancer Council WA, and notes that the skills gained during her scholarship have been vital for every job held, including her current work.

” FIONA PHILLIPS

It felt like being thrown in the deep end, but as a result I was able to directly apply health promotion knowledge and skills from the very beginning of my health promotion career.

1999

MELISSA FANTO

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA (WA)

Melissa worked on an education program for children whose parents are separated or divorced.

DONNA IRWIN

INJURY CONTROL PROGRAM, WA HEALTH

The focus of Donna's scholarship project was to 'Raise Awareness about the Preventable Nature of Falls'. She was responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring the awareness raising phase of Stay on Your Feet WA. Donna was awarded full time employment with the Health Department two months short of completing her scholarship placement.

MELISSA LEDGER

CANCER COUNCIL WA

Melissa's project developed two resources: one for primary and one for secondary schools on the 10 most common cancers, cancer prevention and statistical information. It was developed as a means of providing information for students completing assignments (these were the days before the internet had really taken off as a means of reaching students). The Council received large numbers of requests for information from students. All primary and secondary schools received a copy of the resource.

Melissa now manages the Cancer Smart team at The Cancer Council WA, a diverse health promotion team working on projects that include GP education, bowel cancer education, workplace health promotion and nutrition and physical activity projects.



MELISSA FANTO

Being responsible for a project from the research stage to evaluation with the support of an experienced health promotion professional was invaluable.

”

MARGARET GIDGUP

I would definitely recommend anyone who wants experience to do a scholarship project first as it is where you will cut your teeth. They won't regret it!

2000

COMMENCEMENT OF THE
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH
PROMOTION SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

2000

ERIK ANDA

BUNBURY PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES

For his scholarship, Erik conducted a men's health needs assessment within the Greater Bunbury area (literature review, interviews, surveys, focus groups). He also planned, implemented and evaluated a men's healthy lifestyle package suitable for worksites focusing on the prevention of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Erik is now a Manager with the WA Country Health Service.

” ERIK ANDA

The scholarship enabled me to put into practice core health promotion skills that I learnt during my studies, whilst having adequate supervision from experienced practitioners.

JAMILAH BIN OMAR

KIMBERLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Jamilah worked on the 'Open Load Space' project, an initiative of the Road Safety Council of WA that aimed to reduce death and injury to people riding in the open load space of vehicles in metropolitan and regional WA.

LISA COURTIS (NEE WILLESEE)

ASTHMA FOUNDATION WA

Lisa worked on a number of projects during her scholarship: Heart Week; coordinating the physical activity survey for WA schools; organisation of the State School Canteen Conference; assisting with recruiting organisations to join the Climb to the Top challenge; and Smarter Than Smoking.

“Working for an agency like the Heart Foundation was great because they are leaders in health promotion and so you know that the work you are doing is based on best practice. It was an enlightening experience and as the cliché suggests, you learn how to put the theory into practice in the real world.”

Lisa has also worked at Healthway, the Drug and Alcohol Office, the Australian Medical Foundation and the Eastern Perth Public Health and Community Health Unit.

LISA CROUCH

ASSOCIATION FOR SERVICES FOR TORTURE AND TRAUMA SURVIVORS

Lisa worked on a nutrition project, 'EatSmart', aimed at increasing awareness of nutrition and healthy habits amongst newly arrived refugees and migrants to WA. It involved the delivery of nutrition education classes, cooking classes and supermarket tours to those new arrivals attending English classes at the Adult Migrant Education Services.

"Every day I have incorporated some valued skill or piece of knowledge I attained whilst at ASeTTS. For example, communication and understanding the complexities and challenges of working with disadvantaged groups and how different programs or projects need to address this. Just as I experienced at ASeTTS work in this area requires great determination and through my combined experiences I have met incredibly influential people in the programs and places I have worked."

MICHAEL DOYLE

DERBARL YERRIGAN HEALTH SERVICE

The project Michael worked on was the development of a culturally sensitive audio visual health promotion resource for foot care for Aboriginal Australians with type 2 diabetes. He wrote a script for a video, which involved researching the area of diabetic foot complications, planning and conducting focus groups with the community, submitting funding applications, budgeting and script writing.

Due to circumstances at Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service at the time, a funding application to produce the video was not submitted; this would have been a post scholarship activity. Michael is now a Senior Research Officer at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales.

"The process of developing the script taught me an enormous amount about health promotion practices, such as the need to keep health information messages in plain language that the intended target audience can understand."



MICHAEL DOYLE

It was also the first time I interviewed people about their understanding of diabetes, as well as the first time I conducted a focus group – skills that would later serve me well in a research career.

2001

LISA LOCKYER

FPWA SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Lisa's project involved the development of sexual health resources to support the implementation of the 'Promoting Adolescent Sexual Health (PASH)' program in remote Aboriginal communities.

JOANNE KENNEDY

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION (WA)

Joanne's scholarship provided her with an opportunity to get involved in a range of diverse activities and projects including: assistance with Heart Week seminars; a Heart Week radio interview; administrative assistance with the Climb to the Top stair climbing programme; administrative assistance with the Jump Rope for Heart programme; and evaluation of the use of the Heart Healthy Cook-Off Resource.

JANE BURNS

WOMEN'S HEALTHWORKS

Jane organised forums on women's emotional health and worked on a Healthway grant application for a walking project for her scholarship experience. Jane suggests the scholarship program was "really beneficial as opportunities are limited in health promotion" and that it assists organisations in finding someone to work for six-months at no cost to the organisation.

Jane currently works for Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet and is a member of the Women's Healthworks' Board. As a Senior Research Officer at ECU, her role includes disseminating information about health promotion resources.

” JANE BURNS

I enjoyed the experience and learnt skills which have been applicable to my work. My self-esteem grew as a result of my achievements. I am very grateful that I won a scholarship, it boosted my confidence, improved my work opportunities and I met some great people on my journey.

2002

JANELLE LONGO

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA (WA)

Janelle worked on the 'Relating with GPs and other Health Professionals' project which aimed to raise awareness of the importance of healthy relationships and their influence on mental health to assist GPs and other health care professionals in the Central Perth district. The project incorporated a number of education and awareness raising strategies including a literature review, newsletter articles, the development of a relationship information kit and a professional development workshop. Janelle is currently the Health Promotion Coordinator, South Metropolitan Health Service, Bentley.

” JANELLE LONGO

My experience provided me with a supportive start to my career in health promotion and ongoing employment and the development of new friendships.”

PAULINE MANNING

KIMBERLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Pauline worked on a project looking at smoking in Aboriginal communities, with a view to increasing the number of smoke free areas and encouraging the restriction of tobacco sales to minors.

MELITA LEEDS

KIDSAFE WA

For her scholarship experience, Melita developed the 'Community Action Kit for Home Safety' which was a resource designed to be a reference resource to facilitate consistent child safety messages for health professionals and community organisations. The original document, made available online, has since been adapted as part of the Home Safety Program and was piloted with Child Health Professionals in the Pilbara and Metropolitan Oceanic Regions. Melita is still at Kidsafe WA as the General Manager.

“As I still work with the agency, the knowledge and skills I gained during the 6 month scholarship continue to be developed and fostered through regular learning experiences.”

2003

ALICE STACK

COASTAL AND WHEATBELT PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT (NORTHAM)

Alice analysed a cervical cancer flip chart designed in the Northern Territory for her scholarship project. This process included consultation with the local Aboriginal community to see if the flip chart was culturally appropriate or if it needed to be modified. The flip chart was then used as an educational tool.

LORNA HURST

FREMANTLE DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK

The project, entitled 'Promoting the health of children through General Practice' provided a 'snapshot' of current GP practice in relation to childhood preventative health, particularly in the areas of weight, nutrition, physical activity and oral health. The rationale for the project was the increasing incidence of overweight and obesity in children. GPs and parents of children aged one to nine years in the Fremantle GP Network area participated in an audit of GP preventative health screening.

The scholarship project provided a fantastic opportunity to obtain 'real' work experience in the health promotion field, while being fully supervised and receiving support from all other staff members at Fremantle GP Network. The short-term nature of the project also enabled Lorna to see a program through from commencement to completion which she says was really satisfying.

JULIA DICK

AVON & CENTRAL PRIMARY HEALTH (NORTHAM)

Julia's project was titled 'Rural Art for Road Safety'. The project aimed to increase awareness of road safety messages and positive attitudes pertaining to drink driving amongst Avon Valley residents aged between 17 and 24 years. The project found that nearly half of respondents believed that the local promotional strategies that they had seen would remind them not to drink and drive. Nearly 80% of respondents believed that using artwork developed by the community is a good way to promote road safety messages in that community.

Julia incorporates health promotion knowledge and skills gained during her scholarship in her current work as the Health and Wellbeing Coordinator with the City of Rockingham. These include building partnerships and collaboration, community consultation, involvement and ownership, cultural awareness, good communication skills and flexibility.

2004

CATHERINE FREAN (NEE SWIFT)

WA AIDS COUNCIL

The 'S.H.E. (Sexual Health Education) Project' was a sexual health training package for women with the long-term goal of increasing safer sex negotiation capacity. The program utilised a 'Tupperware' model of bringing women together to share intimate experiences. A facilitator's manual was developed and a train-the-trainer format was used to help the program expand.

Since completing her scholarship Catherine has worked for Relationships Australia and the City of Rockingham. Currently she is a Sessional Academic and Senior Project Officer with Curtin University.

” CATHERINE FREAN

I had a very supportive supervisor and never felt like any question was 'too stupid' to ask.

CARINE ROWLANDS (NEE VAN SANTEN)

KIMBERLY DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE (BROOME)

Carine worked on the 'Eat Good Food' program (Ngalajula Palya Mangarri) that targeted Aboriginal women aged 11-17 years living in Wirrimanu (Balgo) and aimed to increase the knowledge and awareness of the importance of a balanced diet for their children.

NICOLE BROMLEY

WHEATBELT PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT (NORTHAM)

Nicole designed a physical activity pilot program titled 'Every Move Counts' to encourage inactive individuals in the Wheatbelt region to increase their daily levels of incidental activity. To support the implementation, she designed a kit and trained allied health professionals to promote the program to their patients. Nicole is currently an Engagement Coordinator at JMJ Associates.

“The scholarship definitely increased my confidence levels, understanding of different cultures/practices and enabled me to put my health promotion skills into practice.”

2005

JASMIN CHIPPER

WHEATBELT PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT (NORTHAM)

Jasmin worked on 'CaterWise' which was a comprehensive and unique school-based program that delivers workshops to parents, staff and school caterers to educate them about menu planning and healthy eating. The aim of the project was to increase the nutritional health of children in small rural schools that do not have an onsite canteen.

Jasmin subsequently worked as a Safety Consultant at EduSafe, the Occupational Health & Safety Department at Curtin University and was involved in Curtin's Healthy Lifestyle Committee which looks at developing programs to increase the health and wellbeing of Curtin staff. She currently works at Chevron.

RHONDA COX

NORTH METROPOLITAN AREA HEALTH SERVICE – EAST, POPULATION HEALTH UNIT

As part of the 'Say No to Smokes' program, Rhonda's project was to modify the Smokecheck tobacco brief intervention resource for the Noongar Territory to assist Aboriginal Health Workers to help people to quit smoking.

JO-ANNE D'CRESS

DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFICE

Jo-Anne's project was to develop a community resource with three Aboriginal communities to support the 'Enough is Enough' alcohol campaign and reduce alcohol related problems in these communities.

” JASMIN CHIPPER

Receiving the scholarship was an extremely valuable experience for b
opportunity to gain some raw health promotion experience in a supp
in an entire project from the planning to the evaluation stage. It was a
experience. The CaterWise project was a finalist in the 2006 WA Premi

LYNETTE JETTA

ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE – COMMUNITY DRUG SERVICE TEAM (BUNBURY)

Lynette worked with Bill Turner on a peer education project for Aboriginal communities in the South West to address alcohol use and alcohol related harm.

JOAN LEVER

GREAT SOUTHERN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE (ALBANY)

Joan's scholarship project was the development and implementation of health information workshops for parents, as well as health information resources.

COLBY MCGUIRE (NEE SIDEBOTTOM)

CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Colby worked on the 'Mentally Healthy WA' project for her scholarship - an innovative mental health promotion campaign, piloted in six regional Western Australian sites. The campaign encourages people to be physically, socially and mentally active, belong to groups or clubs and make a commitment to an interest or group.

The campaign is implemented locally by project officers and complemented by a comprehensive social marketing campaign. Colby's involvement was assisting Dr Ray James and Professor Rob Donovan with the initial set-up of the campaign at the Perth Hub. This included developing databases, community profiles, partnership audits, assistance with development of training packages and marketing resources.

both my professional and personal development. It was a brilliant supported learning environment. It was valuable to be involved an excellent opportunity to gain some rural health promotion er's Awards!

ROBERTA MONGOO

CARNARVON MEDICAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The aim of Roberta's scholarship project was to deliver health information and improve access to health services for Aboriginal people aged 15 to 25 years by organising adult health checks, workshops, displays and community visits.

GLENYS RIVERS

NORTH METROPOLITAN AREA HEALTH SERVICE – EAST, POPULATION HEALTH UNIT

For her scholarship, Glenys coordinated and conducted a community capacity building project using an Appreciative Inquiry approach to identify priority needs and assets with the Aboriginal community of Swan View (Midland).

BILL TURNER

ST JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE – COMMUNITY DRUG SERVICE TEAM (BUNBURY)

Bill worked with Lynette Jetta on a peer education project for Aboriginal communities in the South West to address alcohol use and alcohol related harm.



GLENYS RIVERS

The scholarship allowed me to work alongside an experienced health promotion officer, be one of the participants in a successful project and I had the opportunity to improve my computer skills by attending short courses through Royal Perth Hospital. The greatest reward of all is that the window of opportunity is now open to a career in health promotion, enabling me to play a significant role in improving our Indigenous peoples' health.

2006

NATASHA DAVIS

NORTH METROPOLITAN AREA HEALTH SERVICE

As part of her scholarship, Natasha worked to provide a culturally secure educational program that can be delivered to Aboriginal Health Workers. The aim of the program was to enable workers to respond appropriately to clients within their local communities who are experiencing family and domestic violence.

SHANNON MCNEAIR

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH (GERALDTON)

Shannon worked on the development of culturally appropriate speech pathology services that are utilised by Aboriginal people from the Yamatji community. Shannon is now a psychologist with the Department of Health.

SHANE POPE

ROADWISE PROGRAM, WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Shane's scholarship experience was working on the 'WA Local Government Fleet Safety' project. The project was an innovative approach to reducing workplace related road crashes as the leading cause of workplace related death and injury in Western Australia.

The project targeted the 144 Local Governments in WA which have over 14,500 vehicles worth over \$459m. The resource kit is currently being used by Local Governments to adopt fleet safety policies that includes fleet purchasing, driver development, inductions, data collection and viewing fleet safety as an occupational safety and health issue as well as a road safety issue. Shane is now a Road Safety Officer at the City of Stirling.

” SHANE POPE

Besides doing volunteer work as a student, the scholarship was my first opportunity to use my knowledge and skills in the real world. The scholarships allowed me to develop good basic knowledge and skills that I know I will continually develop and refine throughout my career.

SARAH NEUMANN

KIMBERLEY POPULATION HEALTH UNIT (BROOME)

Sarah worked on the 'Good Mangarrimai' program which targeted Aboriginal men and women aged from 15 to 50 years, living in Broome and surrounding remote communities. The program aimed to increase knowledge and awareness of the importance of healthy eating through the use of culturally appropriate educational and practical resources in conjunction with the Mangarrimai (Nyool Nyool) Broome Cooking program. Sarah developed the 'Good Mangarrimai' resource file which was a combination of nutrition information, education sessions and activities that were originally developed as part of the 'Good Mangarrimai' nutrition health promotion project. Capacity building and the development of partnerships were key components of the nutrition based health promotion project.

Sarah is now a licensed Real Estate Agent at Bellmerenda Real Estate, Perth.

ALEXA WILKINS

HEALTH PROMOTION UNIT, UWA MEDICAL CENTRE

Alexa worked on the 'Sexuality, Sexual Health and Relationships Education (SHARE)' project. SHARE aimed to increase the knowledge and skills of UWA students around the topics of sexuality, sexual health and relationships, and make them more aware of, and comfortable in accessing, the related on and off-campus services available to them. Alexa is currently a Health Promotion Consultant with the WA Centre for Health Promotion Research and the Aboriginal Maternity Strategic Support Unit.

” ALEXA WILKINS

I think the scholarships are a valuable method to increase the number of new graduates who might come into the health promotion workforce.

DEAN WILSON

SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY DRUG SERVICE TEAM (BUNBURY)

Dean completed an Indigenous youth peer education project titled 'Youth Leading the Way'. Dean is now the Senior Aboriginal Mental Health Worker at WA Country Health Service, Southern Country Health Service Mental Health.

2007

CHRISTINE ARCHIBALD CANCER COUNCIL WA

Christine's scholarship project included: the development of a colorectal cancer education kit; a public awareness campaign; a non-English speaking background project; and developing statistical information sheets for five main cancers. Christine continued to work for the organisation for another five years and in public health until about three years ago, where she was involved in administering health professional education.

"At this stage I wanted to take a break, and redefine my life. I have been mainly involved in work relating to education, but my health promotion background continues to remain important to me and I still support the principles of the Ottawa Charter which I believe in strongly."

VATESSA COLBUNG WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE – GOLDFIELDS (KALGOORLIE)

Vatessa worked on a project to reduce tobacco smoking. Vatessa is currently a contemporary Aboriginal designer of footwear and fashion.

” GEMMA MOTT

Personally, this scholarship really broadened my horizons and subsequently generated my interest in working with at risk groups and rural health.

GEMMA MOTT (NEE MALATESTA) KIMBERLEY POPULATION HEALTH UNIT (BROOME)

Gemma's project was a blood borne virus youth education program, 'What you need to know about HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C'. Gemma enhanced her health promotion competencies through the opportunity to develop, implement and evaluate a health promotion program and interact with the local Aboriginal community.

Gemma went on to work as the Program Coordinator for the Street Doctor service at Perth Primary Care Network and is currently the Professional Development Coordinator with Rural Health West. The skills have enabled her to communicate with a wide variety of stakeholders, enhance her written communication and have an appreciation for program management. She suggests that graduates gain confidence in themselves and the skills they attained at university.

2008

ANNETTE PEPPER

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH (GERALDTON)

Annette's project was to investigate Aboriginal health and the high mortality rates in Aboriginal people, especially from cancer. She had a secondment from the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) and completed studies for the scholarship through the Combined University Centre for Rural Health. She notes that she received excellent guidance and support on a very high level from everyone involved.

For 10 years Annette has been the Aboriginal Services Officer with the Community Drug Service Team at WACHS in Geraldton Regional Hospital. Because of the grass roots start from the scholarship that Annette was awarded, an Indigenous Cancer Support Group was introduced in Geraldton hosted by Geraldton Aboriginal Medical Service.

BETTY UGLE

SOUTH LAKE OTTEY FAMILY & NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTREFIELDS (KALGOORLIE)

For her scholarship experience, Betty worked on the 'WOMAN: Weight Off Management Activity and Nutrition' project.

TRACEY EADES

CANCER COUNCIL WA

Tracey implemented the Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals and the Marmun and Yorgas Holistic Health Day. She is now the Aboriginal Projects Officer with the Cancer Council WA.

"The scholarship led to a permanent position at Cancer Council WA working on the delivery of the Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals and regular opportunities to conduct health promotion sessions to the Aboriginal community."

” ANNETTE PEPPER

As far as my experience goes it is the most beneficial thing I have ever done. It gave me confidence I never thought I had. It made me look at life differently and the experience was beautiful.

MARGARET GIDGUP

OSBORNE DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Margaret worked on a child and maternal health project - 'Reaching out for Better Health'. The aim of the project was to improve health access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in the northern suburbs of Perth by liaising with doctors, nurses, allied health services and hospitals as well as the families themselves.

Throughout this project, Margaret indicates that she gained enormously by having the opportunity to write part of the project's aims and objectives, learning how to design a power point presentation and presenting the project at a health forum.

Margaret is currently working in disabilities as the Community Engagement Officer at the Centre for Cerebral Palsy and would like to continue working in health promotion when the project is completed in 18 months.

RAYLENE MILLS

KIMBERLY POPULATION HEALTH UNIT (BROOME)

Raylene's scholarship experience was to work on a program called 'Looking Forward, Looking Back', with the assistance of other services in the Broome area. "The name of this program seemed fitting, simply because we need to look back at our past, in order to move forward."

The program was designed to help encourage Indigenous women aged 25 to 50 years to focus on their identity, goal setting, positive thinking, family structure, chronic disease and the importance of access to health services. The program was initiated after Raylene had worked as the Women's Health Coordinator at the Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service.

Raylene subsequently worked as a team leader at Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council - Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Training, Education and Research.

BLANCHE WADDELL

WA SCHOOL CANTEEN ASSOCIATION INC.

Blanche's scholarship project aimed to increase the number of healthy food and drink options in sport venues. On completion of her project, Blanche was offered a full time position with further funding granted to continue the project and to expand its scope to engage with other sport, recreation and entertainment venues.

Blanche continued to work in health promotion after her scholarship experience until her health promotion position was made redundant as part of the cuts in Queensland. Following this, she was successful in applying for a project officer position at a university, though the role is not specific to health promotion.

2009

BENJAMIN CEBER

MENTALLY HEALTHY WA

Ben worked on the production of a 'Mentally Healthy Toolbox' which health promotion practitioners can draw upon to improve their capacity to promote positive mental health to individuals and communities.

"Working with Mentally Healthy WA has allowed me to gain skills in survey design, interviewing and resource development. I also learnt about the statistical package SPSS. My project gave me skills in networking and communication with key stakeholders. Working with the Mentally Healthy WA team at the Centre for Behavioural Research and Cancer Control was an enjoyable as well as educational experience."

MATTHEW HALL

GASCOYNE POPULATION HEALTH UNIT (CARNARVON)

Matthew worked on the 'Alcohol Related Injury Surveillance Survey'. The survey, initially conducted in 2001 and 2003 by Carnarvon Regional Hospital, required all emergency department patients to complete a questionnaire, which asked questions such as 'when was your last drink and where did you consume it?' The findings from these surveys helped to put alcohol back on the local agenda and as a result the Liquor Accord was re-established after a few years of inactivity.

” FRANCES POWELL

FRANCES POWELL

FPWA SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Frances completed an impact evaluation of 'Mooditj', an Aboriginal sexual health and life-skills program. She interviewed Aboriginal kids who had completed the program, Mooditj Leaders and sexual health service providers in a number of communities in Northern Western Australia. Until August 2013, Frances was a Senior Policy Officer at the Reproductive Technology Unit, WA Department of Health. She resigned from her position and has since been traveling with her fiancé.

I learnt and absorbed a great deal from being able to work on a tangible project in an organisation for six months. I was exposed to the workings of how a not-for-profit organisation functions and became a member of a team.

2010

GEMMA WHITMAN

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION (WA)

Gemma's scholarship was a research project which examined intermediary engagement to enhance program reach and the use of effective communication with local government and schools to increase the implementation of state-wide Heart Foundation programs. During her scholarship, Gemma developed knowledge of industry, verbal and written communication skills, presentation skills and facilitation skills.

Gemma is currently an Inclusion Officer at the Department of Sport and Recreation. Her role is to facilitate community consultation to develop inclusive sport and active recreation opportunities for low participation groups. Gemma's experiences in health promotion allow her to understand behaviour change, provide experience in working with people from diverse backgrounds and utilise communication skills to develop strong working relationships with agencies, local government and community.

EDWINA CHEONG

CANCER COUNCIL WA

Edwina worked on an innovative program at the Cancer Council WA called the 'Bowel Cancer Community Grants' program. The grants were designed to raise the awareness of bowel cancer prevention, early detection and screening in an informal and welcoming environment with small grants available to assist community groups hold education events in June, 'Bowel Cancer Awareness Month'.

ANNIE GAN

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE OF WA

Annie's project was the development of a community advocacy website on the key PHAIWA priority area of obesity prevention – 'Why Weight WA'. The project aimed to encourage, promote and empower community members to take action in their neighbourhood or workplace to reduce the environmental factors that lead to obesity.

Annie notes that the scope of the project was challenging and it eventually became much bigger than six months. She was able to work to expand the project for another six months at PHAIWA and also with Diabetes WA. The scholarship was a great initial step into health promotion for Annie which continued on from her work at PHAIWA as a prac student. It provided her with the ability to lead her own project and focus on it entirely. Annie is now a Project Officer at the Department of Health WA.

ROSE KAMARUDIN

WA SCHOOLS CANTEEN ASSOCIATION INC

Rose worked on the 'New Land, New Lunch' project. This project helped families who were new arrivals, refugees or spoke English as a second language to overcome barriers faced when packing a lunchbox for their children. Through highly interactive and visual workshops, families learned a range of lunchbox ideas using foods available in Australia. At these workshops parents learned to prepare some new and different foods that they could then take home for their children to taste.

BRENNAN MILLS

CENTRE FOR BEHAVIOURAL RESEARCH IN CANCER CONTROL

The aim of Brennan's scholarship project was to investigate the impact of clear vs. merged figure/ground and assault vs. passive impacts on visceral response and recall: implications for tobacco control campaigns. Brennan is now a Research Associate at ECU.

GAIL MONGOO

ABORIGINAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH GROUP, CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Gail's main project was to promote knowledge and participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program among Aboriginal people through presentations using a flip chart designed for Aboriginal people in Western Australia. She assisted collecting information for the evaluation of the flipchart and once the evaluation was finished, continued running workshops to a range of groups.



BRENNAN MILLS

The scholarship allowed me to begin employment full-time rather than voluntary (part-time and sporadic) which meant I could focus on providing good research and developing relationships with other researchers and experts in the field. The more time you spend at your agency the more likely you are to learn, be involved and pick-up future projects.

2011



GAIL MONGOO

I developed a great relationship with Lynette Odegaard who is now my mentor. I have grown to respect Lynette as my elder, having gained so much knowledge from her as well as extending my networks with Aboriginal people.

STEPHANIE FRANCAS MENTALLY HEALTHY WA

Stephanie's project was to pilot a 'Mentally Healthy Schools Framework' based on the Act-Belong-Commit message with interested schools. Stephanie is now Senior Project Officer with the Live Lighter campaign at the National Heart Foundation (WA).

"I gained a wealth of experience in the health promotion field and in project management".

ASTRID NUNDLE COMBINED UNIVERSITIES CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH (GERALDTON)

Astrid worked on a nutrition and exercise program aimed at the prevention of diabetes in an Aboriginal context. She created a fun and exciting program that had a lasting effect on the health of the families in Mount Magnet. The goal was to obtain health promotion expertise and obtain a broad range of experiences with diabetes prevention and management through nutrition and exercise in an Aboriginal context.

POONAM PANNU

FOODBANK WA

Poonam's project was to develop nutrition resources for culturally and linguistically diverse groups involved in the 'Healthy Food For All' program at Foodbank WA. This project aimed to improve access to nutrition information to refugee and migrant families within the School Breakfast Program in the Perth metropolitan area and improve cultural competencies and skills of service providers in supporting and understanding refugee and migrant families.

"I am so grateful that I was able to obtain an AHPA scholarship. I was also able to learn much more about Foodbank, and made me realise how great it would be to work there!"

Poonam went on to successfully apply for a Public Health Nutritionist position at Foodbank. She is currently working as a Sessional Academic at Curtin University, teaching first year units to undergraduate health students.

JAMES STEVENS-CUTLER

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE OF WA

James developed a 'Children's Environment & Health Local Government Report Card' for his scholarship project. James is still working as a project officer at PHAIWA where the project that he managed during the scholarship continues to be implemented today.

"The scholarship gave me a stable six-month paid employment contract, ability to manage my own project straight out of university, gained professional experience in health promotion setting and opportunities to attend events I wouldn't have had otherwise."

” JAMES STEVENS-CUTLER

The scholarship gives you the opportunity to put into practice everything you learnt at university and more. You become far more advanced in health promotion competencies after applying them in an actual workplace and there are also areas of the field you are exposed to for the first time.

2012

EBONY NARDI

DIABETES WA

Ebony's project aimed to engage Aboriginal children and communities in the prevention of diabetes and promotion of healthy lifestyle messages. This project resulted in the development of a culturally appropriate children's storybook, 'Gary Goanna Goes Healthy' which promotes three key messages to prevent type 2 diabetes: eat healthy, choose water and keep fit. A range of health promotion competencies were developed throughout this project including stakeholder engagement, project planning and development, communication, both written and verbal and knowledge competencies especially relating to Aboriginal health.

"After being a scholarship recipient I have acquired many new skills and have gained valuable experience in the Health Promotion field. I have created many new networks with various health professionals and with Aboriginal communities and organisations."

KRYSTEN BLACKFORD

WESTERN AUSTRALIA CENTRE OF HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH

Krysten's scholarship was the 'Office-based Physical Activity & Nutrition (OPAN) Project'. She developed a number of skills that have resulted in the beginning of a career in research. Krysten developed her literature review, needs assessment, evaluation, statistical analysis and writing skills significantly during the scholarship which she uses now as a Project Officer at WACHPR and to undertake her PhD.

” KRYSTEN BLACKFORD

Through this program I have developed an excellent working relationship with highly regarded academics, whose encouragement and support over the six months of the scholarship and beyond has led to my PhD candidacy.

ADRIAN SIMPSON

WA SUBSTANCE USERS' ASSOCIATION

Adrian worked on a project called HARSEP – Harm Reduction Strategies Education Program. The project aimed to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to try and encourage greater access to WA Substance Users Association and other needle and syringe exchange program services operating in the Perth metropolitan area. Adrian is currently employed as the Aboriginal Outreach Officer for Moorditj Koort (Perth South Coastal Medicare Local). Prior to this he also worked as the Aboriginal Project Officer for the Fremantle Medicare Local.

2013



ADRIAN SIMPSON

Doing the AHPA scholarship was an uplifting, inspirational experience – it gave me something to work towards that I never thought I would have in my life. It was a self-esteem boost, particularly because the people I worked with were trusting of me and they trusted me very quickly. This hasn't always been the case from my past life experiences.

Before I started the scholarship I knew nothing about health promotion and everything I learnt in the scholarship is everything I now know, apart from my life experiences. The knowledge I have is from the scholarship, Jonathan and the courses I was able to complete through the scholarship. I am using these skills every day!

ANDREA JANSEN VAN RENSBURG
HEART FOUNDATION (WA)

Andrea's project aimed to develop and conduct assessments of food outlets in a local government area. This information would be used to demonstrate the need to improve food environments and work with local food outlets to develop more supportive eating environments within the community. Andrea recently finished her scholarship placement and is returning to university for further study. For Andrea, the scholarship experience enabled her to develop a sense of confidence in her capabilities – something she believes she may not have developed so easily if not for the support she received during her placement.

"Being a scholarship recipient also allowed me to develop networks and contacts within the health promotion field in WA (and an understanding of the role of AHPA) and expanded my knowledge of advocacy strategies and the work happening in the health promotion field within WA."

2014...

MEAGAN ROBERTS

METROPOLITAN MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE

Meagan's project aimed to improve the sustainability of the 'Sharing Stories' program which has been developed through the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC). 'Sharing Stories' promotes safe sexual behaviours among migrant youth using drama and theatre based strategies. The project consisted of an evaluation of the effectiveness of using interactive drama and theatre based strategies to educate young refugees and asylum seekers on sexual health.

Meagan has secured a new position as a Project Officer with the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program (DoH).

ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIPS

RELAUNCHED: A NEW APPROACH TO HEALTH PROMOTION CAPACITY BUILDING

” MEAGAN ROBERTS

Nothing was theoretical anymore - I had responsibility over a project and for that reason it pushed me to improve my competencies. I was required to use technology, undertake research, plan, implement and evaluate a project that was my own. The scholarship inspired me to develop my health promotion competencies over the entire duration of the placement, as I wanted my project to be successful.

MELISSA STONEHAM / SUPERVISOR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY INSTITUTE WA

Year, place and student

2011, PHAIWA, James Stevens-Cutler

Can you briefly describe your experience as the supervisor of an AHPA Scholarship recipient?

I supervised James Stevens-Cutler. James was still completing one of his university degrees at the time, so there was a lot to learn on the job. But we had a great time – learning together. I think James' experience at PHAIWA was really valuable for both James and PHAIWA. We had this idea about the Children's Environment and Health Report Card but hadn't the time to develop it into a full blown project, so having James do a lot of the leg work was a great advantage. James learned many advocacy and health promotion skills and increased his knowledge about the local government sector considerably. But it wasn't just James who learnt – I learnt through James as well. He taught me how to better utilise social media and brought a new perspective to some of the report card categories. He even taught me how to tweet! The one thing I did have to teach James was the importance of talking to people on the phone – this is a skill that seems to be disappearing as social media strategies take over!

What was the most rewarding occurrence/event for you as a supervisor?

The most rewarding part of the whole scholarship was the end. Not only did the scholarship culminate in our first ever local government report card awards ceremony, but we were able to keep James on as a staff member – and he is still with us today. Now that is a success story for both the AHPA scholarships program and PHAIWA!

Would you change anything about how you supervised your emerging professional?

If I could change one thing about the way I supervised, it would be to increase the time I could commit to really concentrating on building the skills and confidence of graduates. Like so many other public health professionals, I seem to be dealing with at least four issues at a time, some of which are urgent advocacy responses. This takes away from the ability to successfully manage a graduate. But on the other hand, this type of reactive, manic workplace is representative of so many others, so in hindsight it is probably great to expose new professionals to these types of environments early on.

Why do you think that these types of scholarships are worthwhile for producing future health promotion professionals?

I am a firm believer and advocate for succession planning and I do not think we do it at all well in public health. These types of programs, along with the mentoring and leadership programs offered by a range of organisations, are critically important to our emerging professionals. Over time, we build up so much experience and knowledge and it is a real pleasure to be able to share this with new professionals, who one day, if they take every opportunity available to them, will be the leaders of tomorrow. I learnt along the way too, and the reverse mentoring I received from James, who was young and innovative, was also a great outcome.

The background of the page is a vibrant green with a complex, organic pattern of overlapping, translucent, leaf-like or petal-like shapes. A large, white, angular geometric shape, resembling a stylized 'V' or a torn corner, is positioned on the left side, partially obscuring the green background and the text area.

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1993-2013
21 YEARS