

Mentee Handbook

PHAA NATIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM 2023

Student & Young Professionals Committee

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Introduction

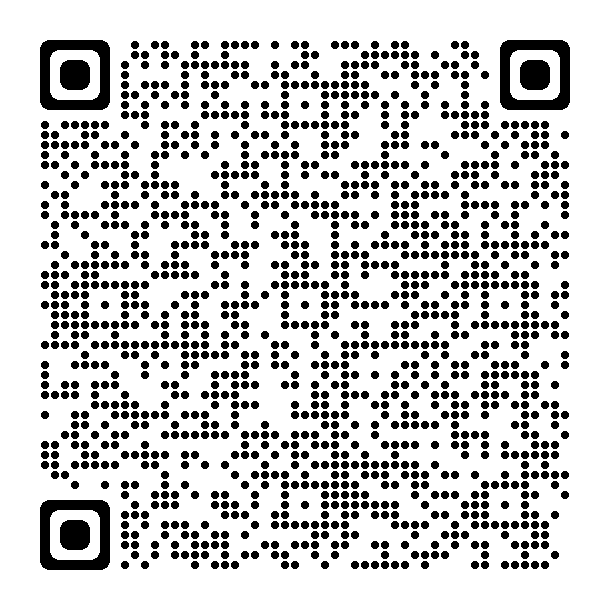
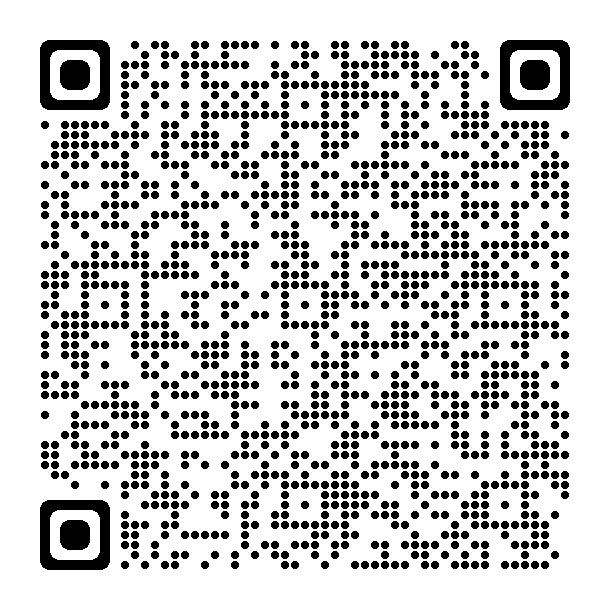
Welcome to the Mentee Handbook!

This document displays the diverse range of mentors participating in the PHAA National Mentoring Program for 2023. It is designed to help you select your mentor preferences for your application as a Student, Early Career or Career Transition mentee.

As you navigate your way through you will find each mentor’s skills/area of expertise and topic area of expertise summarised in visual tables. Each mentor also has a dedicated page with further information including a short biography detailing their professional career experience and the types of mentees they are available to mentor.

Summary tables

Click on the links below to view a visual summary all mentor skills/area of expertise and topic areas of expertise (based on PHAA Special Interest Groups). The table links are ‘View only’; however, you can download the table and ‘Sort/Filter by Colour’ for the skills you are seeking guidance for and/or your specific Areas of interests.



[Table 1: Summary of mentor skills and area of expertise](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12AwBv1a1zvbduZzn15xrXAeF5Y2DBVZc/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117362063093564257880&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[Table 2: Summary of mentor topic areas of expertise](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1P1Uj8yjl1t-3D5sEknKIoWV8xswSGarM/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117362063093564257880&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Public Health Association of Australia

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government organisation for public health in Australia and works to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. The Association seeks better population health outcomes based on prevention, the social determinants of health, and equity principles.

Key roles of the organisation include capacity building, advocacy, and the development of policy. Core to our work is an evidence base drawn from a wide range of members working in public health practice, research, administration, and related fields who volunteer their time to inform policy, support advocacy, and assist in capacity building within the sector.

PHAA is a national organisation comprising around 1900 individual members and representing over 40 professional groups concerned with the promotion of health at a population level. Membership of PHAA is open to any person who is supportive of the objectives of the Association. These are to:

* advocate for the reduction of health inequalities across Australia and international communities;
* encourage research and promote knowledge relating to the problems, needs, and development of public health;
* promote and provide a forum for the regular exchange of views and information;
* promote the development and education of workers in public health;
* promote, maintain and extend the interest of PHAA’s Branches, Special Interest Groups, and any affiliated organisations;
* promote excellence in public health practice; and,
* advocate the objects and policies of the Association.

Student & Young Professional’s Committee

The Students and Young Professionals in Public Health (SYPPH) group of the PHAA is a portal for students and young professionals interested in public health to maintain and expand their professional networks and improve their career prospects in public health. The group is led by a dedicated committee of young professionals who act as an advisory for, and oversee the activities of, students and young professionals at a national level, with close links to state branch student and young professional representatives.

PHAA National Mentoring Program

The Public Health Association of Australia welcomes you to the PHAA National Mentoring Program. This information pack has been designed to provide an introduction to the program as well as a step-by-step guide on how to participate.

Public health works to promote greater health and well-being of individuals and communities and requires a multidisciplinary approach to address and tackle these important health challenges. As a broad and varied discipline, public health encompasses an enormous variety of research and employment opportunities. As such, it can be difficult for people new to the field (and even for those established in the area) to make decisions about work and study directions.

The PHAA National Mentoring Program coordinates and facilitates the pairing of mentors and mentees in public health. The program runs over the course of nine months and primarily functions as a way to initiate a mentee-mentor relationship. The program is purposely flexible in design to allow mentees and mentors to work together in identifying the mentoring needs of the mentee and develop corresponding objectives for the mentee-mentor relationship over the duration of the program. The program aims to build the capacity of student and early career members of the PHAA through teaching, training, networking, and providing them with appropriate resources. Participants, both mentees and mentors, benefit from the program in different ways, depending on what they hope to get out of the process. Table 1 shows the likely benefits for mentees and mentors of the mentoring program.

Benefits of the Program

MENTEES

* Opportunity to discuss and seek guidance and advice regarding own career ideas, helping to make more informed choices in the future
* Opportunity to meet a public health practitioner with experience in your area of interest
* Advice on resources relevant to your area/s of interest
* Enhanced professional development and increased confidence
* Exposure to new ideas and perspectivesMENTORS
* Opportunity to facilitate the mentee’s professional growth
* Revitalised enthusiasm and affirmation of role as an experienced worker
* Further develop interpersonal and communication skills
* Gain experience in explaining the scope and skills of your work to a different audience
* Exposure to new ideas and perspectives

Expectations

Mentees

* Willing to commit to the nine-month mentoring program and maintain regular contact with your mentor over this duration
* Sensitive to the constraints (e.g., time) of your mentor
* Focused on developing the skills that will help you meet your identified goals for the mentoring program through drawing on the expertise of your mentor
* Respectful in maintaining confidentiality and boundaries in all aspects of the mentee-mentor relationship Honest about the outcomes of the program
* Willing to complete the evaluation survey at the end of the program to enable ongoing improvement of the program for future years

Mentors

* Willing to commit to the nine-month mentoring program and maintain regular contact with your mentee over this duration
* Focused on building your mentee’s skills in order to achieve the goals identified during the mentoring program
* Respectful in maintaining confidentiality and boundaries in all aspects of the mentor/mentee relationship
* Sensitive to the needs of your mentee Honest about the outcomes of the program
* Willing to complete the evaluation survey at the end of the program to enable ongoing improvement of the program for future years

Assessment of applications

[**https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mn2uHN8Qf33\_z4lJomX3Zcz5oLpqwvuoGXerAUvjhfE/edit?usp=sharing**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mn2uHN8Qf33_z4lJomX3Zcz5oLpqwvuoGXerAUvjhfE/edit?usp=sharing)

Mentor summaries

Abela Barongo Mahimbo

I am an overseas trained medical doctor, early career researcher, and lecturer in Public Health at the University of Technology Sydney. My PhD, completed in 2018, focused on the neglected area of immunisation policy and service delivery for refugees in Australia. I am a passionate educator with skills in qualitative research, implementation science, and health policy analysis. My research has significantly contributed to the body of evidence on the health of vulnerable populations. I am developing a strong track record with high-quality research outputs, competitive funding, and research translation. I have a passion for health equity and I am keen on conducting research that drives changes in policies and practices for at-risk communities.

Areas of interest

* Immunisation
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Grant writing
* Job application
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Adam Shoesmith

I am a PhD Candidate in Public Health and Behavioural Science three years into my candidature through the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle. I am also a Research Assistant through the University of Newcastle, working in the Good for Kids Good for Life team at Hunter New England Population Health. My research evaluates the sustainability of evidence-based health promotion interventions within community settings. My approach is to help improve co-design, co-production, and co-dissemination processes of preventive health research, in partnership with government and non-government organisations, and research institutions to ensure that effective translation of evidence into policy and practice by health and other services leads to sustained positive health outcomes for populations.

Areas of interest

* Child and Youth Health
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Non–governmental organisation
* Recently graduated
* Research
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student

Aimee Brownbill

Dr Aimee Brownbill is a Senior Policy and Research Advisor at the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education. Aimee has a PhD in Medicine (Public Health), a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Sciences (Nutrition and Health Promotion) and Honours Degree in Public Health and has contributed to collaborative applied research projects in the fields of nutrition, alcohol and tobacco control. She has authored peer-reviewed journal articles and presented her research nationally and internationally. She has also authored reports and briefings for government and consults on public health policies in Australia.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Research
* Job application
* Leadership
* NGOs

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student

Alan Crouch

Dr Alan Crouch is a population health practitioner and researcher, with more than forty years’ experience in global health programs. Prior to joining the Department of Rural Health of the Melbourne Medical School (Ballarat Campus), he undertook a range of roles across population health disciplines with a diverse group of organisations including the Australian Agency for International Development, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, The World Bank, the World Health Organisation and the Tropical Population Health Unit in Cairns, Queensland.

In these roles, Alan was responsible for the implementation of more than forty major health projects including formative research into sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, childhood immunisation and other health system strengthening projects, in Australia, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Western Pacific. Alan's current research interests include the social and structural determinants of health disadvantage and inequity in rural Victoria and globally.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Health Promotion
* Immunisation
* International Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Career transition
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Alexandra Barratt

I am an epidemiologist and Professor of Public Health at the Sydney School of Public Health. I established and continue to co-lead Wiser Healthcare, a world-leading, research collaboration which aims to reduce overtesting, overdiagnosis and overtreatment. I am internationally recognised for my cancer screening research in breast, prostate, bowel, and cervical cancer screening. In 2020, with colleagues McGain and McAlister we published the world’s first carbon footprint study of five of the most commonly used blood tests. I am currently leading a theme of research to support a safe, effective transition to low carbon health care, an urgent priority in Australia and globally.

Areas of interest

* Ecology and Environment
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Leadership
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Anna Nicholson

Dr Anna Nicholson is currently the David Hill Research Fellow at Cancer Council Victoria. Anna has been working in public health research and evaluation since 2010, on a background of physiotherapy and chronic disease management. Anna completed a PhD in 2016 on the effectiveness of advertising and warning labels for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smokers, as part of a research partnership between Menzies School of Health Research, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Cancer Council Victoria. Since then, Anna has strengthened her expertise in policy and program monitoring, evaluation, and research, with a focus on prevention, health equity and harmful industries. Anna has managed several busy research and evaluation programs and teams, including for SunSmart Victoria and Beyond Blue. As a Health Broker, Anna implemented and evaluated an NCD-prevention project in a local government and community setting in central Victoria.

Anna has been a PHAA member since 2010, joined the Victorian Branch Committee in 2017, was elected to Victorian Branch President from 2018 – 2022, and sat on the PHAA Board from 2020 – 2022. Through these experiences, Anna has developed strong public health networks, stakeholder relationships, and advocacy skills. Anna lives in regional Victoria.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Health Promotion
* Mental Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Career transition
* Job application
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Annie Preston-Thomas

I work as a Public Health Physician at Tropical Public Health Services -Cairns (TPHS). My role involves providing public health leadership for Communicable Disease Control and Immunisation Program activities in the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service region and in the state-wide Rheumatic Fever Register and Control Program. I previously worked in the Sexual Health team at TPHS and for 15 years as a GP in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in Central Australia and Far North Queensland, in urban and remote settings.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Immunisation
* Justice Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Career transition
* Job application
* Leadership
* Research
* Work life balance
* Working as a healthcare practitioner
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Aziz Rahman

I am a Public Health Specialist and a Medical Doctor. I have experience of working in the areas of public health research, program, and teaching both in Australian and international settings. Details can be found here: https://www.linkedin.com/in/drazizrahman/

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Health Promotion
* Mental Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Research

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Brahm Marjadi

A/Prof Brahmaputra (Brahm) Marjadi is a Founding Member of the PHAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Special Interest Group, where he served as inaugural Convenor (2020-2022) and Committee Member (2022-present). He served as Co-Convenor (2014-2020) and Committee Member (2020-present) of the PHAA International Health SIG. He also served as PHAA Board Member (2020-2022) and became a Fellow of the PHAA in 2022.

Brahm is the Associate Dean for Engagement and Associate Professor in Community Engaged Learning at the Western Sydney University School of Medicine. With a medical degree from Indonesia he has an eclectic career path since 1996 in GP practice, medical microbiology, health promoting schools, grassroot public health organisations, healthcare-associated infection prevention and control, medical education, and intersectionality of diversity aspects. Across his experiences, three things remain constant: his passion for teaching, his service to marginalised populations, and his interest in cross-cultural knowledge translation.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* International Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Fellowship application
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Teaching
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Claire Harris

First career in clinical medicine (GP and community paediatrics)

Second career in public health

Previously Director of Centre for Clinical Effectiveness at Monash Health and Director of GP Liaison, Research and Education Unit, Royal Children’s Hospital

Adjunct Associate Professor in Evidence Synthesis, Qualitative and

Implementation Methods, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash Uni

PhD in Health Services Research

Public health experience primarily focused on EBP systematic reviews, guideline development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based change, working with consumers, developing organisational systems and processes that enable evidence-based decision-making

Areas of interest

* Child and Youth Health
* Political Economy of Health
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance
* Working as a healthcare practitioner
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

David Thomas

David has worked in Indigenous health and health research for 30 years. He has worked as a doctor for three Aboriginal community-controlled health services. He has published peer-reviewed research articles about many aspects of Indigenous health and the book, Reading Doctors’ Writing (Aboriginal Studies Press, 2004). David established and has led the Tobacco Control Research Program at Menzies since 2007. He has completed research about many aspects of Indigenous tobacco control, including the national longitudinal study ‘Talking About The Smokes’, an RCT, Cochrane reviews, qualitative research (including the examination of historical tobacco industry documents), evaluations of local and national policies and projects, and monitoring trends in smoking. This work has been in collaboration with Australian and international researchers, including many Indigenous researchers, and in close partnership with Indigenous communities and organisations, especially Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. David is involved in the translation of research into policy and practice through advocacy, collaborations with policy makers and practitioners, and his membership on several important national and NT committees. David has mentored in the PHAA National Mentoring Program, the Catalyse mentoring program for women in tropical health, mentored trainees in the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine and coordinated a support group for early career researchers at Menzies.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Health Promotion
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Research
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Leadership
* Career transition
* Work life balance
* NGOs
* Working as a healthcare practitioner

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Deanne Wooden

My work history includes 20+ years’, working across the government, non-government, education, and clinical sectors. Within this time, I have collaborated with a range of partners on complex public health nutrition initiatives to keep Queenslanders healthy. For example, I effectively coordinated a state-wide policy change requiring implementation of healthy food and drinks supply in public hospitals in Queensland (2016-2021). I led a comprehensive advocacy campaign on behalf of the Heart Foundation for kJ menu labelling legislation in Queensland (2010-2016). I am currently reviewing the evidence and practice of implementation of healthy food and drink supply policies in Australian schools to inform policy progress in Queensland.

Areas of interest

* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Donna Mak

Donna Mak is a public health physician who works at Communicable Disease Control Directorate, WA Health and teaches medical students at the School of Medicine, Fremantle University of Notre Dame. Donna is passionate about growing the next generation of public health practitioners. Outside of work Donna enjoys choral singing (an extreme sport in COVID-times!), swimming, kayaking and is an avid reader and member of three book clubs.

Areas of interest

* Immunisation
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Job application
* Leadership
* Teaching
* Working as a healthcare practitioner
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Erica McIntyre

I am a mid-career public health researcher and educator (>7 years) with two primary areas of research interest. The first is environmental psychology, which includes the intersection between urban environments and human and planetary health, the psychosocial impacts from environmental change, and behaviour change and resilience to climate change. My second area of research is health psychology including health care behaviours and decision-making, and communication in health care. I also have a special interest in mental health having worked as a researcher in a NFP mental health service, and am a co-convenor of the Mental Health SIG.

Areas of interest

* Complementary Medicine Evidence
* Research and Policy
* Ecology and Environment
* Mental Health
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Fiona Robards

With experience as a researcher, policy analyst, health service manager and clinician, I have a strong interest in public health advocacy to achieve equity, health, and well-being for marginalised young people.

My PhD explored 'How marginalised young people navigate the Australian healthcare system'. I also have Masters-level training in psychology, art therapy, health service management and public health.

I work as an academic at The University of Sydney, coordinating three public health units of study in the Masters of Sexual and Reproductive Health, Faculty of Medicine, and Health.

As part of her public health advocacy, I am Co-convenor of the Public Health Association of Australia’s Child and Youth Health Special Interest Group and a member of the Australian Child Rights Taskforce leadership group.

I am also a public health consultant providing strategic planning, policy and resource development to the government and community healthcare sectors.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Child and Youth Health
* Health Promotion
* Mental Health
* Political Economy of Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Job application
* Leadership
* Teaching
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Geoff Browne

Geoff is a postdoctoral research fellow with senior tutor and subject coordination responsibilities in urban planning, climate change and public health. Geoff has published on a range of issues; Victorian local government's role in health, environmental justice, on health literacy and on sustainability and climate change.

Geoff has a special interest in the ecological model of public health, the ‘commercial determinants of health’ and in the potential for 'liveability' to be used to achieve better public health equity outcomes from major infrastructure projects.

Geoff completed his PhD in 2018 on the use of evidence in statutory municipal health and wellbeing planning. Prior to completing his PhD, Geoff worked at VicHealth as Principal Program Officer, as a consultant for the McCaughey Health and Wellbeing Unit (MSPGH) and for eight years as a senior policy analyst and professional wildfire fighter with the Victorian Environment Department and Environment Commissioner. He was a chief author of the 2008 State of the Environment report and the 2013 State Waste Policy. Geoff also has experience in local government and private practice as a sustainability consultant.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Ecology and Environment
* Political Economy of Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Research
* Teaching
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student

Ginny Sargent

I have accrued extensive experience in population health research. I commenced a PhD at UNSW in 2007 and conducted post-docs at ANU in Primary Health Care services research and mental health. I have lectured and convened courses in the ANU Master of Public Health. I worked for three years in ACT Government, informing evidence-based policy design, and coordinating health research and evaluation of government health policy.

I returned to ANU in 2019 to lead the implementation of the PHXchange at the ANU. The PHXchange is seeking to ensure that quality research has impact in the community. I am developing a new approach to achieve research impact through knowledge exchange and translation. I work with a broad range of people and organisations, including the community, health service consumers, non-government organisations, and national and state governments.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Child and Youth Health
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* Mental Health
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Job application
* Leadership
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Jenny Claire Kaldor

I am a legal practitioner, policy analyst, and researcher in the field of public health law, policy, and regulation. I have public health experience across the academic, government, and non-government sectors. I began my career as a legal practitioner in corporate and commercial law, before completing an MSc Food Policy and then a PhD in law/policy to shift into public health. My PhD research looked at the role of mandatory regulation in shaping a healthier food supply. My postdoctoral research as part of an ARC-funded grant looked at the regulation of highly innovative health technologies. During the COVID-19 pandemic I joined the Tasmanian Department of Health as Senior Policy Analyst, supporting the Director of Public Health. I am currently undertaking a WHO consultancy in which I provide legislative and policy support to developing countries seeking to review their public health legislation. I am also actively involved in the Public Health Law Community of Practice run by the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre. COVID-19 highlighted the critical and often misunderstood role of law and regulation in public health, and I am passionate about translating and advocating the role of legal practitioners as public health professionals in multidisciplinary environments.

Areas of interest

* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* International Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Career transition
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Joanne Flavel

I am a Research Fellow at Stretton Health Equity at the University of Adelaide. I am a public health researcher with significant expertise in quantitative research. My research interests and research experience cover a variety of topics, including interactions between health and work, the social and economic determinants of health, health economics, injury epidemiology, global public health, and social determinants of refugee settlement outcomes.

I am a member of the international Punching Above Weight (PAW) Network, formed to advance thinking and research about why some countries do much better in terms of health outcomes than would be predicted by their economic status. I am also a Global Burden of Disease Collaborator. In addition to my research skills, I also have experience in public health advocacy and policy writing.

Alongside my academic position, I am actively involved in the Public Health Association of Australia and the Australian Health Promotion Association. I am Co-convenor of the PHAA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Special Interest Group and Membership Secretary and Events Coordinator for the PHAA South Australian Branch. I received the PHAA Emerging Leader Award and the Health Promotion SIG Early Career Award for Research in 2022.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Research

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Joanne Taylor

Jo is a veterinarian with public health and epi specialisations in the US and Australia. After completing a PhD characterising novel swine influenza viruses she spent 2.5 years working for US CDC in their epidemic intelligence service program, leading local, state, national and international level research, surveillance and outbreak responses. For the past two years she has led field epi training programs and operational research in PNG (rapid response teams, advanced FETP, frontline FETP) and supported one health networks and research with Hunter New England health. She currently coordinates international strategy projects for the Dept of Agriculture (animal biosecurity) and remains heavily involved in One Health and FETP.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Complementary Medicine Evidence
* Research and Policy
* Ecology and Environment
* Injury Prevention
* International Health
* One Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Recently graduated
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

John Lowe

For the past 40 years I have been a researcher and academic. I have over 300 publications and have attracted more than 30 million of research dollars both in Australia and USA. I did work before that time within Queensland Health. Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Health Promotion
* Injury Prevention

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Julie Anne Mitchell

I am an experienced purpose driven national leader in public health, having worked in both government and non-government organizations.

As a senior executive, I have managed highly skilled and experienced teams; overseen successful state and national public health programs; and been a regular media commentator on chronic disease prevention and women's health.

I am highly adept at stakeholder management, policy development, public health advocacy and complex issue management.

I have clear insight into the challenges facing health delivery in Australia and the importance of adopting an agile mindset to drive transformation, build capability and integrate digital technologies to optimize program outcomes.

My passion is to improve the health of both women and men in practical ways through the application of science, research, public health policy and consumer sentiment. This had been demonstrated in the policy areas of tobacco control, public health nutrition, primary prevention, and women's health.

I am currently an Adjunct Senior Lecturer with the School of Public Health, Sydney University.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* Primary Health Care
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Kathryn Backholer

I am an academic with a full research load. I work in multi-disciplinary teams and lead several large research programs. I consult to UN organisations and governments across the world, particularly in the South Asia and South-East Asia region. My main focus is public health nutrition, but I also work across other risk factors (tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarettes). I have chaired and sat on many fellowship and grant committees and have mentored and supervised many EMCRs on how to build competitive academic track records. I have three young children and live in regional Victoria.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* Political Economy of Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Research
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Krishna Hort

Director Programs (2005-2008), Unit Head, Health Systems Strengthening Unit (2008-2014), Deputy Director (2011-2014), Acting CEO (2015-2016), and Senior consultant (2017-2018), Nossal Institute of Global Health (NIGH), University of Melbourne.

My role at the Nossal Institute has focused on research, program management, technical consultancies, and teaching in the areas of organisation, regulation, and management of health systems in countries of the Asia Pacific. A particular focus has been on the delivery of programs and services that address key public health issues, such as maternal and child health, primary health care, and communicable diseases. My role has also focused on the development of evidence on effective programs and strategies, and communication of evidence to policy makers, notably as Technical Director of the AusAID funded Health Policy and Health Finance Knowledge Hub (2008-2013).

Director of Public Health, Wentworth Area Health Service, NSW Department of Health (1997-2005)

Responsible for the management and administration of public health services to Wentworth Health Area, in Western Sydney, Australia, with a population 300,000, covering Penrith, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains local government areas. My role included: management of the public health unit of 10 staff in areas of communicable disease control, environmental health, epidemiology and surveillance; provision of high level advice and advocacy to the Area Health Service Executive on strategies to improve population health and address public health issues ; management of response to public health incidents and disasters, as Area Public Health controller; liaison and fostering of partnerships with key sectoral partners including local government, community organisations and other State government agencies; and participation as part of the Public Health Network in the development of policies and programs at state level within the NSW Department of Health.

Areas of interest

* International Health
* One Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Teaching
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Kristen Glenister

I am currently a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Rural Health, located in rural North-eastern Victoria. My research interests include rural health, chronic disease, obesity, and access to healthcare. I am passionate about equity of access to health care for rural people. For the past two years I have been assisting the Diversity Equity and Inclusion special interest group as a co-convenor.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Career transition
* Research

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Kristie Cocotis

I have almost 20 years of professional experience in health. Most of my professional career has been in non-for-profit organisations but have also worked in local government. I have worked in Victoria, New South Wales, and Tonga. I have particular interests in health equity and health literacy, working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities and LGBTIQA+ communities. I initially intended to focus on gender, and women and sexual and reproductive health, but the majority of my career has been focused on non-communicable conditions.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* International Health
* Primary Health Care
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Career transition
* Job application
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Lennert Veerman

Dutch-trained public health physician with passion for healthy physical, economic, social, and natural environments. The scope of my work includes health economics, and I now have a strong profile in epidemiological modelling, burden of disease studies, non-communicable disease control and the cost-effectiveness of prevention. I am the discipline lead for public health in the School. Now mainly research-focused, previously more L&T/leadership.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Research

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Lisa McHugh

Dr Lisa McHugh is an epidemiologist and post-doc early career research fellow at The University of Queensland School of Public Health. With over 25 years’ experience in clinical research, her expertise and interests include clinical midwifery, First Nations health, epidemiology, infectious diseases, and maternal vaccination. Lisa is a graduate of the Australian National University MPhil in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) program (2014/15), and she completed her PhD in the uptake and safety of influenza and pertussis vaccines in pregnant women and their infants. Lisa’s current Fellowship is evaluating equity in antenatal vaccination programs for First Nations women and their infants and identifying key factors contributing to vaccine uptake in pregnancy.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Immunisation
* Research and Policy

Skills and areas of expertise

* Research
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Recently graduated
* NGOs
* Working as a healthcare practitioner

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Louisa Gordon

I am a health economist and Group Leader of Health Economics at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. I have 20 years’ experience as a health economics researcher performing economic evaluations, decision-analytic modelling and applied economic research. My program of research is devoted to evaluating the cost-effectiveness of health interventions (predominantly within cancer care), the financial burdens of cancer survivors and the economics of disease prevention. I have published extensively in the areas of skin cancer prevention, supportive care interventions for breast and other cancers, costing studies and on the financial burden of cancer among patients. I have published over 160 peer-reviewed journal publications and written 5 book chapters including 3 in Australian clinical practice guidelines. I currently sit on the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) Evaluation Sub-Committee, which assesses new technologies for reimbursement by the Commonwealth Department of Health. I also currently serve as the Australian representative on the Scientific Committee of the WHO International Agency for Research in Cancer.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Health Promotion
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Mariam Hachem

Miss Hachem, BA/BSc(Hons) MPH, is a Clinical Trial Manager at the University of Melbourne, Austin Health. She has over 6+ years of experience in diabetes research, public health, and clinical trials (investigator-initiated and pharmaceutical trials). She is the Clinical Trial Manager for the FlashGM Study, Australia's first device trial for Indigenous Australians with type 2 diabetes living in urban, regional, rural and remote settings funded by the NHMRC.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Grant writing
* Leadership
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Maxine Whittaker

Maxine Whittaker is the Co-Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Vector Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases (pro bono) at James Cook University and Civil Society Representative to the Global Fund 3rd Regional Artemisinin Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion Regional Steering Committee (pro bono) . She is a public health physician, applied medical anthropologist and health systems researcher focussing on improving the health systems and services to increase accessibility and acceptability of quality services to populations especially malaria and neglected tropical diseases and One Health (human-animal-environment-plant interface) and on equity and community ownership and engagement. Maxine has worked closely over the last 17 years on health systems strengthening for vector borne disease prevention, surveillance and response, management, and advocacy work, as well as policy translation from implementation research, and in developing short courses to support programme implementation. In 2017 she was awarded the Royal Australasian College of Physicians International Medal, in recognition of outstanding service in developing countries. She has published more than 150 peer reviewed publications (h index 34) and several project documents for development partners and countries, policy briefings, briefing papers, book chapters and commissioned papers. In the last 20 years Professor Whittaker has been a Principal, Chief or Co-Investigator in more than $85,000,000 worth of research grants and contracts of nationally and internationally competitive, industry and other research grants. She has lived and worked in Africa, Asia and The Pacific.

Areas of interest

* International Health
* One Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Md Arifuzzaman Khan

I am a highly qualified public health epidemiologist with a PhD in Public Health from the University of Queensland School of Public Health. My PhD research project has contributed to the scientific evidence base for designing and implementing health promotion programs. I am currently a dual professional in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service as a Senior Epidemiologist and Clinical Researcher, supporting evidence-based public health practice and clinical research in Queensland. Before moving to Australia, I gained eight years of hands-on public health research experience at icddr,b, a well-known international public health institute in Bangladesh. My research focused on clinical development of vaccines, improving vaccine feasibility and field applicability, and collaborating with reputable national and international academic and research organizations. This work influenced the global immunization policy for cholera and typhoid vaccines. I have published 35 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals and been a co-investigator on 13 successful research grants totalling over $13 million. In addition to my research, I teach and mentor medical and public health students and clinical research teams. My goal is to become a leading academic and research leader in the field of health science, particularly in disease prevention.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Complementary Medicine Evidence
* Research and Policy
* Health Promotion
* Immunisation
* International Health
* One Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Career transition
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Non–governmental organisation
* Recently graduated
* Research
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Megan Campbell

Megan is a Public Health Physician and has worked in both government and non-government organizations at the state and national level. Her primary focus has been Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, in particular supporting a strong community-controlled health sector and equitable and effective health policy.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Immunisation
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Job application
* Non–governmental organisation
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Nathan Harrison

Hi there! I am an early-career health behavioural scientist, experienced tertiary educator, and public health and implementation science student. I hold a First-Class Honours degree in psychology, and commenced PhD studies in June 2022, focused on lung cancer screening, smoking, and stigma.

My highly translational research experience has included a focus on developing and evaluating population health interventions that can contribute to reducing health disparities, using rigorous qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methods, with strong consumer engagement. I have been employed in the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction at Flinders University since March 2019 (currently as Senior Research Officer), conducting policy-relevant public health research in various community and clinical settings on tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use, particularly with key population subgroup members who experience disproportionate harms. I was previously a Behavioural Scientist in SAHMRI’s Health Policy Centre, and have held other research roles at the three South Australian universities.

My teaching interests extend to psychological measurement and research methodology for the behavioural sciences, where I'm highly experienced in course coordination and online learning. I have successfully delivered large, fully-online undergraduate courses and managed remote teaching teams (including during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic), whilst substantially improving student evaluation metrics and being repeatedly recognised via institutional awards for teaching excellence. I also bring a deep personal commitment to equity, diversity, and professional capacity building. This has been demonstrated with a range of professional service roles (particularly in health-focused LGBTIQA+ and Reconciliation Action Plan initiatives) and mentoring young professionals and students typically from under-represented backgrounds (particularly first-generation, mature-age, LGBTIQA+, and international students).

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student

Nicole Nathan

Dr Nicole Nathan is a highly qualified health promotion research practitioner with over 20 years of experience. She is the Director of the Priority Centre for Health Behaviour at the University of Newcastle and holds several key positions including the Deputy Director of the Hunter Medical Research Institute Population Health Program and co-Director of the NSW Health Prevention Research Support Program. With a PhD in Health Behaviour and a focus on implementation and sustainability research, Dr Nathan leads a team of researchers and practitioners conducting translational research and has developed several successful health promotion interventions in community settings. Dr Nathan also co-leads the U.S. National Institute of Health’s Training Institute for Dissemination & Implementation Research in Health and is the program lead for the NHMRC CRE National Centre of Implementation Science. Her research has had a significant impact on the health promotion support provided to schools in NSW, leading to the development of a unique implementation model and a surveillance system used by NSW Health to monitor implementation of best practice health promoting environments.

Areas of interest

* Child and Youth Health
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Leadership
* Research
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Noni Ruth Walker

Noni has worked in public health for more than 30 years. Her work has included roles with the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, Telethon Kids Institute, Heart Foundation, Cancer Council WA, WA Department of Health, Healthway, the International Network of Health Promotion Foundations, the Place of Reflection consortium, Perth Home Care Services and other NGOs, as well as academic positions at Edith Cowan University.

Her experience covers all stages of programs: needs and assets assessment; stakeholder engagement; funding applications; design of program evaluation; program implementation; review and reporting on outcomes. She is also has experience in training, workforce capacity building and leadership development. As an advocate she has contributed on issues such as tobacco control, nutrition, alcohol, cancer prevention, and gun control through written and oral submissions to state and national governments and government agencies.

As a member of a diverse range of teams health promotion, advocacy, clinical, research, capacity building, volunteers – Noni values collaboration to achieve public health outcomes.

Areas of interest

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* Injury Prevention
* Justice Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Paige Preston

Paige is the Senior Manager of the Policy, Advocacy and Prevention team at Lung Foundation Australia. In this role she leads a team and drives the organisations policy agenda, including related research projects, strategic partnerships, and government relations across Australia. Paige has previously worked as a senior policy advisor at Cancer Council QLD and Chaired Cancer Council’s National Skin Cancer Committee. She has experience in health policy, program development through to evaluation, advocacy, and also acted as a media spokesperson across multiple organisations. She completed a Master in Public Health and a Bachelor of Health Sciences, both at the University of Queensland. She interned at the WHO headquarters in Switzerland, has an adjunct position at UQ, and has co-authored a number of publications in the areas of children’s environmental health, skin cancer prevention, occupational lung disease, and vaping.

Areas of interest

* Ecology and Environment
* Health Promotion
* Immunisation
* International Health
* Political Economy of Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Job application
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Recently graduated
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Patricia Lee

Patricia Lee is an associate professor and epidemiologist in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University. She has over 20 years of teaching and working experience in epidemiology and biostatistics. Patricia is the Program Advisor of the Master of Global Public Health Program and Epidemiology subject lead at Griffith University. She has been involved in many international and Australian research projects. Her research interests include epidemiology, health risk modelling, risk analysis, health promotion (especially in workplace and mental health promotion) and disease prevention. She has a strong track record in mentoring junior researchers or public health graduates seeking careers or HDR opportunities in public health or epidemiology.

Areas of interest

* Health Promotion
* International Health
* Mental Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Career transition
* Fellowship application
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Paul Gardiner

Paul Gardiner's multidisciplinary research promotes active ageing with a focus on helping people improve and maintain quality of life. His PhD research reported for the first time that it is feasible to reduce sedentary time in older adults. His current research builds on this to examine behavioural approaches to dementia prevention.

He is part of the Our Voice Citizen Science global research network. This network has over 30 members across six continents and aims to improve health equity through allowing citizens to discover their environment, discuss their findings, and advocate for change.

He has a strong interest in diversity, equity and inclusion and co-founded the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Special Interest Group of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA). He is also Vice-President (Finance) of the PHAA.

Previous research areas have included evaluation of drug and alcohol treatment services, development and dissemination of parenting programs, stillbirth epidemiology, and women's health.

Areas of interest

* Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Health Promotion
* Women’s Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Pete Venticich

Hi! I'm a 31 year old male, queer, mid-career public health professional (and geek) living on Wurundjeri Country (aka Melbourne). I love prevention and promotion policy and anything to do with community empowerment. I have held public health practice, research, teaching, and advocacy roles for over five years now. I graduated from my MPH in Europe and continued to work there in teaching and mentoring, and research on community engagement in public health at Maastricht University. I then returned to work in Victoria's COVID-19 response for over two years,an incredibly formative experience. I am currently teaching part time in La Trobe University's public health school and continuing to support the PHAA Victoria Branch with advocacy activities, among other things! Before all of this, I worked in sport science and community physical activity promotion. I get excited by social justice, public health, system change and facilitating personal and professional growth in early career colleagues.

Areas of interest

* Health Promotion
* Political Economy of Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Job application
* Leadership
* Recently graduated
* Teaching
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Rachel Meade

Rachel is currently on secondment in the role of the General Manager Research & Advocacy at Injury Matters. Rachel manages Injury Matters' prevention and trauma recovery-focussed research, evaluation and advocacy focused activities designed to contribute to a population level reduction in injury rates in WA. Rachel has extensive experience leading teams and managing injury prevention programs, previously managing the state-wide falls prevention program Stay On Your Feet® and Know Injury capacity building program. Rachel is the secretary of the Australasian Injury Prevention Network and co-chair of the Public Health Association, Injury Prevention Special Interest Group. Rachel has worked in injury prevention in Western Australia for over 12 years and has experience working for not-for-profit and governments locally and internationally.

Areas of interest

* Health Promotion
* Injury Prevention

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Grant writing
* Job application
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Rob Moodie

Rob Moodie is Professor of Public Health at the University of Melbourne’s School of Population and Global Health (MSPGH), and Professor of Public Health at the College of Medicine, University of Malawi. Prior to this he was the Director of Teaching and Learning at MSPGH, and before that was the inaugural Chair of Global Health at the Nossal Institute. He was trained in medicine and public health and worked in refugee health care in the Sudan for Save the Children Fund and Médecins Sans Frontières, and later for Congress, the Aboriginal Community controlled health service in Central Australia from 1982-1988. He worked for many years on HIV prevention for the Health Department Victoria, the Burnet Institute, WHO's Global Programme on AIDS. He was then appointed as the inaugural Director of Country Support for UNAIDS in Geneva from 1995-98 and was a member of the Commission on AIDS in the Pacific. He chaired the Technical Advisory Panel of Avahan, the Gates Foundation's HIV prevention program in India from 2004-2013. He was CEO of VicHealth from 1998-2007, the world’s first health promotion foundation based on a dedicated tobacco tax. From 2008-2011 he chaired the National Preventative Health Taskforce in Australia, which recommended the introduction of plain packaging. He chaired the Gavi Vaccine Alliance’s Evaluation Advisory Committee from 2013-2019 and advises the World Health Organization in the areas of Non-Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion. His major interests are in public health leadership skills, health promotion, the role of unhealthy commodity industries (Big Tobacco, Ultra-processed food, Alcohol, Gambling) in harming health, as well as road safety. He has been teaching and refining leadership skills training programs for the last 13 years mainly in Australia, Malawi, and south Asia. He has co-edited and co-authored 4 books including Promoting Mental Health, Hands on Health Promotion and Recipes for a Great Life written with Gabriel Gate

Areas of interest

* Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* International Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Leadership
* Teaching
* Work life balance
* International experience and networks

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Silvana Santina Bettiol

I am a leading public health educator and researcher at the University of Tasmania. My research is innovative and influential, aligning with UTAS strategic research objectives to improve health equity, strengthen Tasmanian community partnerships, promote healthier environments and sustainable practice. This reflects my college strategic priorities of transforming health through education and research of global importance and local relevance. I’ve built a career spanning 30 years, by leveraging my expertise with cross-disciplinary collaborators across the world. I have published over 60 papers in high-impact publications with an H index of 22. I support my research with diverse funding, mentor PhD and Master students, and serve as GRC at the Tasmanian School of Medicine. My research informs novel approaches to postgraduate education. My leadership in professional and community engagement is reflected by the increase in invited service to local, national, and international working groups in the past 10 years.

Areas of interest

* Ecology and Environment
* Health Promotion
* International Health
* Oral Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Career transition
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Sotiris Vardoulakis

Sotiris Vardoulakis is inaugural Professor of Global Environmental Health at the ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, and Director of the NHMRC Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) National Research Network. Previously he held a number of senior academic, civil service and consultancy positions in the UK. He was Director of Research and Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Occupational Health at the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh, Head of the Environmental Change Department, and of the Air Pollution and Climate Change Groups at Public Health England, and lecturer and course director (MPH) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the University of Birmingham. He is currently Honorary Professor at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter Medical School.

For more than 20 years, Sotiris has advised national and local governments and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the European Parliament, the UK Government, and the Australian Department of Health, on the health effects of climate change, air pollution, sustainable development, environmental health, urban health, and risk communication. He has managed interdisciplinary teams and mentored students, practitioners and researchers.

Areas of interest

* Ecology and Environment

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Career transition
* Grant writing
* Job application
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Research
* Teaching
* Work life balance
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Steph Munari

I am a PhD candidate and public health medicine trainee through the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM). My PhD is examining current chlamydia management practices including retesting rates and investigating the implementation of home postal retesting kits and PID diagnostic and management tools in general practice to reduce the burden of disease from chlamydia in Australia. I also work as a Senior Research Officer in public health at the Burnet Institute, where I work with sexually transmitted infection and blood borne virus sentinel surveillance data. My previous work has examined the impacts of COVID-19 government restrictions in Victoria and hepatitis C testing among priority populations.

After completing my medical degree and working in clinical medicine for a few years, I chose to pursue my passion for preventative health by starting public health training. I love the broad scope and far-reaching impacts that public health has to offer, along with all of the fascinating and passionate people I get to meet and work with.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Health Promotion

Skills and areas of expertise

* Career transition
* Job application
* Non–governmental organisation
* Recently graduated
* Research
* Work life balance
* Working as a healthcare practitioner

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Timothy Gill

Tim Gill is Professor of Public Health Nutrition within the Boden Initiative for Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise and Eating Disorders at the Charles Perkins Centre in the University of Sydney. He has wide experience as an academic and within government departments as well as work with health agencies and health NGOs.

I have significant experience in all aspects of the development of public policy and communication of messages around nutrition with specific expertise in obesity prevention and management. A major component of this work is the assessment of the existing evidence base and interpreting such findings for the guidance of policy and program development. I have undertaken a series of policy-related reviews on nutrition and obesity and have been a lead contributor to several key reports on obesity for Australian State and Federal Government departments as well as national and international agencies. I served as the scientific Secretary for the International Obesity Task Force and worked on number of World Health Organization expert committees on obesity and chronic disease. I also have extensive experience in the development of polices and guidelines on obesity and public health nutrition issues for the European Union and the UK Government as well as serving on a number of Australian nutrition policy panels.

Areas of interest

* Food and Nutrition
* Health Promotion
* International Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Advocacy
* Policy
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks
* Leadership
* Non–governmental organisation
* Research
* Teaching
* Working with or within government

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Troy McNeill

I am registered nurse and midwife with approximately 25 years working in busy clinical (public health, emergency, neonatal intensive care, and maternity), and academic (university) environments. These experiences have provided me with the knowledge, skills and behavioural attributes required for professional practice. I have over 9 years of experience working in public health. I am currently employed as a Clinical Nurse Consultant – Communicable Diseases in the Sydney Local Health District. Within this role, I provide clinical leadership and education on complex clinical issues to staff, clients, and carers.

Previously I was employed as an immunisation nurse. Within this role I was employed as a team leader of the adolescent school-based programme. Key accountabilities included pre clinic liaisons, vaccination of adolescent children, cold chain management, emergency response management and the collection and entry of data.

Areas of interest

* Immunisation
* One Health

Skills and areas of expertise

* Recently graduated
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline

Zhaoli Dai-Keller

Dr. Zhaoli (Joy) Dai-Keller is a nutritional epidemiologist and population-health scientist. Her research and teaching focus on chronic disease prevention, food policy, research integrity, and health disparities.

Joy has a research passion for healthy ageing. She received her PhD in epidemiology (nutrition and osteoporosis) from National University of Singapore in October 2015, followed by a prestigious NIH postdoctoral research training fellowship at Boston University with Professor David T. Felson on the epidemiology of musculoskeletal disorders. Moving to Australia in 2018, she worked with Professor Lisa Bero at the University of Sydney on an NHMRC project grant to assess the rigour of evidence-based guidelines in diet and nutrition and osteoporosis prevention. She has further gained tremendous experience working in health electronic health records at Macquarie University AIHI to research the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare access and quality. Joy has published over 40 publications in top-tier medical journals, including the BMJ, Annals of Rheumatic Diseases, and PLOS Medicine.

As a committed public health researcher and educator, her goal is to train students in public health or medicine to develop systems thinking and essential analytic skills to address various public health problems.

Areas of interest

* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Food and Nutrition
* Injury Prevention
* International Health
* Primary Health Care

Skills and areas of expertise

* Policy
* Career transition
* International experience and networks
* Research
* Teaching

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career

Zohra Lassi

I am a trained epidemiologist and mid-career academic researcher and Senior-Lecturer, recognised internationally for my work identifying interventions for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition interventions in disadvantaged settings by advancing knowledge in public health practice and translation into global health policies and guidelines. I have published 180+ peer-reviewed papers, including Lancet, BMJ, BJOG, PLoS Medicine, and 10 Cochrane reviews. In addition, I am the author of 10 book chapters and several research/technical reports. I completed my PhD in late 2015 and have worked in perinatal research for more than 10 years. My research has contributed significantly to global maternal and newborn policies, and the significance of my work has resulted in several invited presentations at international meetings as well. I have made sustained contributions to Cochrane as an author, a referee, and trainer. I am a current Feedback Editor for the Acute Respiratory Infections Group. In 2011, I was awarded the prestigious international Kenneth Warren Prize from Cochrane for preparing a very high-quality systematic review. My expertise in evidence synthesis has also been recognised through invited membership of five separate Lancet Intervention Review Groups (Child Health Optimising (0-19) Series 2021, Maternal and Child Undernutrition Series 2021, Every Newborn Series 2014, Maternal and Child Nutrition Series 2013, Diarrhoea and Pneumonia Series 2013) and subsequent publications. In addition, I have been appointed as a Technical Advisor to the WHO on three occasions. I have been awarded the Women’s Research Excellence Award by the University of Adelaide for being an outstanding Early Career Researcher in 2016, Executive Dean Award for Research (early career) in 2017 and 2020 and was a finalist on 2019 Vice-Chancellor Award for Research Excellence and 2021 University Award for Outstanding Achievement in the category Excellence in Research. More recently, I was awarded 2021 HDA Women’s Excellence in Research Award, 2021 Robinson Research Institute Director’s Award for being an outstanding early/mid-career researcher, and 2021 Episteme Laureate by Sigma Nursing for being an excellent reflection of the nursing profession and acknowledging a breakthrough in nursing knowledge development that impacts the underserved relating to nutrition/malnutrition. I am currently Senior Lecturer and hold the competitive NHMRC Early Career Fellowship.

Areas of interest

* Child and Youth Health
* Food and Nutrition
* International Health
* Research and Policy

Skills and areas of expertise

* Research
* Fellowship application
* Grant writing
* International experience and networks

Types of mentees comfortable mentoring

* Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student
* Early Career: Within the first five years of their career
* Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline