

XVIIIth World Conference on Health Promotion and Education

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Promoting the health of populations in the 21st century continues to be a significant challenge to the field of health promotion. The growing inequalities in health that have occurred in the past two decades, within countries and between countries, are cause for grave concern on the part of citizens and governments everywhere.

Reducing these inequalities, and creating a world in which social justice, ecological sustainability and participatory democracy are the norms, are major challenges for those in health promotion.

In 1986, the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion identified prerequisites for health – the conditions or environments that determine people's and communities' health and well-being. Despite the real successes that have been achieved by health promotion since 1986, we have made only limited progress towards ensuring that all people have equal access to these prerequisites and, hence, to the opportunity to achieve and sustain good health.

With a growing body of evidence of effective social initiatives to bring about widespread social change to promote health, it is important to continue to identify and participate in action to 'create conditions for good health for all'.

To that end, the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) is pleased to invite you to participate in the XVIIIth World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education (the conference), to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 25 to 29 April 2004.

Entitled 'Valuing diversity, reshaping power: exploring pathways for health and wellbeing', the conference will assess the status of health promotion across the world and identify practical solutions to move forward. It will explore ways in which health promotion theory, evidence, policy and practice must be strengthened and expanded if we are to eliminate the inequalities in health that have persisted within and between nations.

The voices of Indigenous peoples, marginalised peoples, and other people whose health is seriously compromised by their living conditions will be given particular attention.

The main themes of the conference will be:

1. Maintaining diversity in a global culture for health and well-being.
2. Shifting the balance of power – new forms of governance and participation for better health.
3. Vision, purpose and leadership – exploring different pathways to health:
 - Setting an agenda for promoting Indigenous health.
 - Addressing stress from civil dislocation, unemployment and cultural change.
 - Restoring the balance between environment, health and spirituality.

The conference will create opportunities for participants to engage with high-quality presenters, build new knowledge and skills and to network and socialise with international and local practitioners, researchers, educators, government representatives and ministers from a variety of portfolios and countries.

The program will encourage you to be actively engaged through a combination of plenaries, interactive forums, workshops, skill development and discussion sessions, and multiple opportunities for formal and informal networking. It will also include accredited continuing education programs for health educators, nurses and physicians.

The social program will provide further opportunities to enjoy sharing experiences with colleagues from across the world.

In conjunction with IUHPE, the conference will be auspiced by a number of organisations in the south-west Pacific, including the Australian Centre for Health Promotion, Australian Health Promotion Association, Australian Health Promoting Schools Association, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Deakin University, International Harm Reduction Conference, New Zealand Health Promotion Forum, Public Health Association of Australia, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and Victorian Department of Human Services.

For further information, contact the manager, XVIIIth World Conference on Health Promotion and Education

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The call for abstracts and further information will be circulated in May 2003.

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