

IUHPE News

Valuing Diversity: Reshaping Power – Developing the 18th World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education: Melbourne 2004

Key Dates

31 October 2003 : Abstract submission closes
Late January 2004 : Abstract submission notifications
15 February 2004 : Early registration ends
26 April 2004 : Opening ceremony

The World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education is the only regular forum for a truly global exchange of views and information on health promotion and education.

Health2004: The 18th World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, will take place 26 – 30 April 2004 in Melbourne, Australia. The conference is presented by the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), in association with the World Health Organization, the Australian government, and local, national and international bodies.

Health2004 will be complemented by other important meetings and events, including Gateway Conferences in Singapore, Auckland and Brisbane, the International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm, and a meeting of the WHO Mega-Country Health Promotion Network.

The conference title *Valuing diversity, reshaping power: exploring pathways for health and wellbeing*

highlights the need for broadly-based partnership in health development if global changes and challenges are to be successfully addressed. It is important that the conference is not an end in itself, but is instead a ‘signpost’ along the way to increasing the interest of key decision makers in health promotion, to showcase projects, to develop new ideas, to develop new peers and new contacts.

The World Conference will bring the diverse international membership of International Union for Health Promotion and Education together with familiar and new global partners for health promotion. The mobilisation of leadership and action among policymakers, field practitioners and researchers is essential to drive and sustain the type and scale of advocacy and action needed to achieve priority health issues, such as those identified in the Global Burden of Disease Study and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Keynote Addresses

The Plenary Sessions of the conference will address a different aspect of the Conference Theme over each of the four days - day 1 – Global Changes and Challenges to Health, day 2 – Valuing Diversity, day 3 – Reshaping Power: Leadership, Participation, Governance and day 4 – Creating the Conditions for Health: Vision, Purpose, Pathways.

Keynote speakers include Dr Jeffrey Koplan and Dr David Satcher (US); Prof Mary Kalantzis and Australian Health & Aged Care Minister, Sen Kay Patterson (Australia); Prof Maurice Mittelmark (Norway); Rev Andrew Mawson (UK); Prof Mason Durie (New Zealand); and Dr Moncef Marzouki (Tunisia) among others. Plenary sessions will feature simultaneous translation into English, French, Spanish and Chinese.

Developing the Program

The World Conference will provide ‘state of the art’ information from the most creditable sources across a range of health areas, health promotion, methodologies, population groups and settings. The Conference will also provide an excellent opportunity for many organisations to showcase their programs and projects before a global audience. A significant part of the program will be given over to specially organised sessions involving national governments, universities, development banks, and

international agencies as we focus on developing countries and countries in transition more than ever before.

Health2004 in Melbourne will assess the current status of health promotion across the world and identify practical ways to move forward. To this end, the three touchstones for program organisers will be:

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

The program will include sessions on a wide range of topics including: sustainable financing for health promotion, urbanisation and development, HIV/AIDS, youth, mental health, workplace health, partnerships, multi-cultural health, policy forums, physical activity, tobacco, peace & health, ageing, governance, food and nutrition, school health, injury prevention, globalization, health inequalities, health and trade, health promotion theory, evidence for health promotion and public policy for promoting health.

Participants in the Conference will have the chance to engage with highly qualified 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 participants actively to engage in 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.

Abstract submission is open through 31 October 2003. Abstracts on any relevant topic are welcome, but we expect most will fall within one or more of these broad topics:

- Health Promotion/Public Health Theories, Methods & Perspectives
- Health Promotion Research & Evaluation
- Population
- Settings
- Environment & Urbanisation
- Health Behaviour/Risk Factors
- Health Policy
- Disease Prevention
- Mental Health
- Injury Prevention
- Sectors

Full details are available – and submissions should be made – on the conference website, <http://www.Health2004.com.au>. The website is also the best place to find new information about the conference, such as keynote speakers and program details, and what else there will be to do in Melbourne that week, which we will post as information becomes available.

Registration

Register for the World Conference on-line at <http://www.Health2004.com.au>; early registration fees apply through 15 February 2004 and are \$875 for IUHPE members and \$1095 for non-members. These fees are in AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS. Full-time students are entitled to a \$250 discount on the applicable rate.