The 2016 National Health Promotion conference is less than 2 months away. The theme is ‘Connecting the Dots: Tradition to Innovation, Making it Matter’.

This conference will aim to consolidate the diverse range of issues that are dealt with in health promotion by encouraging presenters to “connect” their issues back to the core principles of the Ottawa Charter. This will be achieved through the integration of the five Ottawa Charter principles as the conference sub themes.

Connecting the dots refers to the overarching framework that links the diverse range of issues and stakeholders working in and with health promotion practice, policy and research. It also links to our Indigenous Australians and is reflected in the conference logo.

The Tradition to Innovation tagline has been selected to celebrate the 30 years since the Ottawa Charter was developed. The conference will reflect on the journey of health promotion with a focus on present and future best practice.

Making it Matter is an important part of the conference theme. Remembering what we do, why we do it and ensuring partnerships are broad and solid are all critically important in health promotion. The presenters at the conference will all discuss how their projects or research have made it matter in the real world.

**Keynotes** come from a broad and varied background and include:

- Dr Audrey Aumua - Deputy Director-General of the Pacific Community (SPC), based in Suva, Fiji. Audrey will be talking about the public health challenges facing the Pacific nations
- Dr Gary Fooks - Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Public Policy, Aston University (UK). Gary will discuss corporate social responsibility and how to manage links with industry
- Kathy Burns - Artistic Director from Barkly Arts in Tennant Creek who will discuss the importance of art to connect communities and discuss preventive health
• Dr Kevin Buckett - Director of Public Health Services, South Australian Department of Health. Kevin is our controversial speaker and will discuss the difficulties when two sides on public health don't agree. The Health Star Rating will be used as an example.

• Dr Rhys Jones, a Public Health Medicine Specialist and Senior Lecturer in Māori Health at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Rhys will seek to connect the dots between health, sustainability and equity, with a focus on the implications for health promotion and will use climate change and colonization in discussing tradition as innovation.

Other highlights include:

• A politicians panel with local and national politicians discussing how to influence them to think more about prevention as well as their thoughts on whether health is a personal responsibility

• A panel on Corporate Social responsibility with experts from the tobacco, gambling and food sectors

• A new style of presentation called “innovations” where delegates are allowed to speak on issues which are new or controversial but may not yet have evidence to back up their claims. Examples include whether blogs should be considered as important as peer reviewed journal article for translational outcomes and whether the new “fat Barbie” is promoting the obesity

• 3 excellent pre conference workshops – one on Indigenous health, one of influencing key decision makers and the final one on the use of social media to promote health and wellbeing

• The integration of “hands on” activities within the program to enable delegates to practice what we preach – e.g. laughing yoga, learning to sing in Noongar language, tai chi, learning to dot paint, etc.

• A fantastic social program including a surfing safari conference dinner (with dancing!!)

• Opportunities to meet the keynotes at exclusive lunches, through interactive workshop and at social events

And all this at one of Perth’s premier beachside venues – right on the Indian Ocean, where every room has a view.

We hope to see you there!

Dr Melissa Stoneham and Melinda Edmonds – Conference Convenors