Public Health Professionals' Education and Training

The WFPHA Public Health Professionals’ Education and Training Working Group (PET) aims to develop a strategy to globally harmonize essential public health functions and competencies based on practice needs, define and apply standards of quality for public health education and training, and develop academic and institutional capacity based on a needs and demand analysis.

The PET is in the process of reforming the working group, with new members from various parts of the world including student representatives who will be able to provide insight into the education and training needs of younger professionals. The work plan is slowly being developed. PET remains committed to the eight projects identified in 2015, including the need to define how we understand specific terms relating to education, training, competence, and associated words. Because the terminology for educational processes varies between countries, the WFPHA Education and Training PET working group is developing a set of definitions with the hope that these be used throughout its membership, for clarity and sharing of meaning. In 2017, the PET prepared a table of definitions for public health education and training which has been published on the WFPHA website. The PET chair gave a session on the work of the PET at the WCPH in April 2017 during the Council for Academic Public Health Institutions Australia (CAPHIA) session. The purpose of this session was to invite participation in the work of the PET. This strategy resulted in useful engagement.

The Charter has been highlighted in three forums. Firstly, a publication of the CAPHIA public health competencies is currently in review. The paper highlights how the Australian competencies are reflected in the Charter and its framework. Secondly, the Charter framework was used as the graphic in a presentation of the PET at the WFPHA CAPHIA forum in Melbourne. Finally, on 28 September 2017, at the joint Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM)/Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) 2017 Congress in Sydney, the Charter framework was included in a session entitled ‘Effectively Leading Waves of Change in America, Europe, Asia Pacific and Africa: Using Health Economics, Epidemiology, Planning and Regulation Reform’, as a way of showing how useful it is as a way of analyzing important health problems.