

Biographies of the Key Note Speakers

Michael Gordon—Director, PDF Management Services Pty Ltd

Michael has been involved in community development, training and facilitation since his first job, which was working for country fire authorities. In this role, he developed skills, coordinated fire fighting efforts, conducted community education and administered unpaid fire brigades in both Tasmania and South Australia. For four years, he was manager of the State Fire Training College in Adelaide.

Michael's work has since incorporated youth sector development work for the Department of Premier and Cabinet, management of the training and employment services for a community sector organisation, and small business activities through his ownership and management of a travel agency, newsagent/supermarket, and taxis and limousines.

Since forming PDF Management Services four years ago, his projects have included the co-authoring of *Leading the Way—Councils creating healthier communities*, business planning for and development of agricultural show societies, many local government projects (such as establishing and developing youth activity services) and other resource development, training and facilitation work.

Michael is involved in running the family farm, and enjoys training and racing horses.

Jan Norton—Director, Social and Environmental Health, Department of Human Services

Jan has responsibility for the carriage of a wide range of preventative and promotional population health activities in Victoria—including healthy living strategies, chronic disease prevention, injury prevention, food safety—and a range of environmental health functions—including water and air quality, and radiation safety.

She is the Victorian representative on the National Obesity Task Force established by the Australian Health Minister's Council, and she has extensive executive management experience across health program areas, including hospitals and mental health.

Prior to her current appointment, Jan was Regional Director of the Department of Human Services, Barwon South West Region—a position with responsibility for the full range of human services delivered in that region, including the management of a budget of \$250 million and over 600 staff.

Jan also has a strong background in human resource management and organisational change, having been the Department's Director of Human Resources and having managed complex organisational change projects, including a hospital closure and the establishment of a regionalised health bureaucracy.

Particularly relevant today is her responsibility for the Department's contribution to the development, implementation and support of the Municipal Public Health Planning framework *Environments for Health*.

John Biviano—Manager, Partnership Development, Public Health Group, Department of Human Services

John has managed to survive the last nine years working for the Department of Human Services in a variety of roles in public health and drugs policy and services. The roles ranged from project management to senior management positions, and his work has included the management of public health capacity building and advocacy initiatives, business support, executive support, program management, parliamentary liaison, business planning, the development of the public health strategic plan, the development of health promotion and illness prevention strategies, and the management of a regional public health unit.

Previously, he worked as a medical laboratory scientist for 15 years in the pathology sector, in many of Melbourne's leading teaching hospitals. As well as being passionate about public health, John has a keen interest in management and leadership practice. For the past three years, he has lectured on management in Hong Kong on a casual basis, through RMIT University. During his 'spare time', John enjoys spending time with his wife Josie and son Alex.

Tracey Slatter—Acting Director, Primary and Community Health, Department of Human Services

Tracey has held a number of senior executive positions in Victoria, including over five years responsibility for primary care reform, primary health care and community health. She has also managed place-based responses to disadvantage, through Victoria's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

Tracey has a background in community development and the management of community based agencies, and she has postgraduate qualifications in business management and human services research.

Helen Jordan—Lecturer, Program Evaluation Unit, University of Melbourne

Helen has extensive experience in health program evaluation practice and teaching. She has provided support to, and reported on public health planning, practice and evaluation for, local government, Divisions of General Practice and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Among her evaluations are those for the Department of Human Services funded Good Practice Program and the City of Darebin's Municipal Public Health Plan.

Helen is a lecturer and trainer of health program evaluation, teaching accredited and short courses (both face-to-face and by distance education) to public health policy makers in the Department of Health and Ageing, public health practitioners in the workforce, and public health postgraduate students enrolled at Melbourne University and Monash University. She has developed a workforce planning method for the Department of Health and Ageing to assess the capacity to deliver national health strategies. Helen has also developed an evaluation framework for a national public health education program, using the principles of program logic.

Theonie Tacticos—Research Fellow, Program Evaluation Unit, University of Melbourne

Theonie has extensive experience in training, research and evaluation in a range of settings, including local government, health and community agencies. She has a particular interest in community engagement and participation. Theonie's current work includes: providing evaluation and support for the Department of Human Services funded Good Practice Program; participating in the Department of Human Services Southern Metropolitan Region workforce development initiative; providing evaluation support for municipal public health planning; and evaluating Best Start, which is a three-year initiative to improve services and facilities for children and their families.

Theonie's past work has included providing health promotion support to Primary Care Partnerships in a VicHealth funded project, teaching at LaTrobe University and working at the City of Melbourne. She is the Victorian President of the Public Health Association.

Kellie-Ann Jolly—Director, Physical Activity, VicHealth

Kellie-Ann began her professional career in 1981 as a dental therapist in the School Dental Service in the former Department of Health and Community Services. During her 14 years in the dental field, she had a range of positions including Senior Dental Therapist, Principal Dental Therapist, Co-ordinator Oral Health Promotion and Secretary of the Australian Dental Therapist Association (Vic. Branch). In 1991, Kellie completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Education and Promotion, which led her to a career move in health promotion

where she has remained for the past 12 years. Her health promotion roles have included Senior Policy Advisor, Department Human Services, Director North East Health Promotion Centre, Group Leader Education, Local Government and Health, VicHealth and her current position, Director Physical Activity at VicHealth. Kellie has been involved in the development of the mentoring program for the Australian Health Promotion Association (Vic Branch) and has recently completed her Masters of Health Sciences at LaTrobe University. She has managed the development and implementation of the *Leading the Way* project at VicHealth for the past two years.

Ged Dibley—Director, PDF Management Services Pty Ltd

Ged has more than 15 years experience in senior management roles in health, housing and community services. He is co-author of *Leading the Way—Councils creating healthier communities*, which is a resource that VicHealth funded to increase the capacity of councils to influence the health and wellbeing of their local communities. Ged has been promoting this resource to councils across Victoria, conducting presentations, workshops and seminars for over 30 councils in recent months.

Kerry Stubbings—Manager, Social Policy and Health Support, Moreland City Council

Kerry has responsibility in her current role for some direct services—for example, maternal and child health and public health—as well as social policy—for example, the Municipal Public Health Plan, community safety, access and equity policies (disability access policy, multicultural policy, women’s policy), reconciliation, social research and planning.

With over 20 years experience in local government, State Government and the community sector, Kerry has worked across program areas, including community health, education, public housing, children’s services and aged services. Her key interest is in facilitating opportunities for collaborative and integrated approaches to enhancing community health, wellbeing and social justice at the local level.

Tim Owen—Manager, Public Health, Department of Human Services, Gippsland Region

Tim spent most of his early working life in public health units in rural New South Wales (including terms in far western New South Wales and Albury), with responsibility for infectious diseases, epidemiology, health promotion and primary care planning. He has also worked in the Perinatal Data Collection Unit in Victoria, the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at the Cancer Council of Victoria, and the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch of NSW Health. Tim was recently responsible for a National Public Health Partnership project on indicators of system performance for public health in Australia.

Tim has an undergraduate degree in health sciences, a masters of public health and a graduate diploma in applied epidemiology. He has an interest in descriptive and social epidemiology, and is passionate about integrated planning for population health.

Stephanie Knox—Project Officer, Planning Institute of Australia, Victorian Division

Stephanie is working part time on the Planning for Health Project. She has over 20 years experience in planning with all levels of government in Australia and with the private sector in Australia and overseas, including eight years lecturing in planning and three years working in the Solomon Islands. Since 1998, Stephanie has worked in Melbourne as a planning consultant specialising in social and strategic planning. Examples of her recent projects include safer design training, an urban renewal project and a Heart Foundation project.

Stephanie has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Geography and Psychology, and a Masters in Planning from the University of Sydney, and she is a member of the Planning Institute of Australia. Her personal challenge is to leave the car at home and walk and use public transport as much as possible.

Andrea Hay—Manager, Public Health Development, Department of Human Services, Southern Metropolitan Region

Andrea is currently developing a regional approach to public health based on collaboration, an approach that recognises the importance of supportive environments for health, with a renewed focus on local government. Andrea comes from many years working in public health in local government across Victoria. She has supported local government health planning and Municipal Public Health Plans, coordinated and supported health promotion activity from a Department of Human Services regional office, and developed health promotion networks for local government. Her extensive background in public health and health promotion has developed into an interest in integrated planning in local government.

Andrea established and led the Local Government Partnerships Team in Public Health, Department of Human Services, during the crucial period of developing and implementing *Environments for Health* (Team Leader 2000-2002). During this time, Andrea established many key collaborative partnerships. Andrea is now drawing on her expertise and experience in the Local Government Team to develop a systematic program of support and consultancy for local government in Southern Metropolitan Region.