
WELLINGTON BRANCH REPORT

*E ngā reo, e ngā mana, e ngā karanga taaha maha
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa!*

On behalf of the PHA Wellington Branch, Ramil and team would like to welcome you to the AGM on the evening of Tuesday 12th December 2023, from 1700pm – 1930pm (Venue -TBC). Nau mai haere mai!

Current Branch Officials:

Dr. Ramil Adhikari: Co -Chair & Newsletter Co- Ordinator

Gail Duncan: Office Support

The Public Health Wellington Branch has been engaged throughout the year this year as well. As we are aware of the challenging circumstance has been arose this year since 28th February 2020 where the first case of COVID – 19 was found in New Zealand (NZ). The Public Health Wellington Branch has supported the government policies and promoted the awareness in the community in different aspects and continued in Omicron phase as well.

The Branch and branch members have been supporting community for wellbeing during the pandemic by supporting the students and migrants who got affected by it. The branch member has supported on translation of information COVID-19 social awareness message for non-English speaker especially targeting to the senior citizen migrated to New Zealand like as in Nepalese, Hindi, Punjabi & Chinese. The Branch Chair has been proactively bridging the work and service relationship between Ministry of Health/ Te Whatu Ora and Diverse communities.



Post Budget Breakfast 19th May, 2023

We planned to hold our annual Post Budget Breakfast in May 2023, which we have been organising jointly with CPAG for over a decade. Gail & Ramil had taken active role to support the mahi Branch's space. As a part of regular annual event in collaboration with CPAG which occurs the next day the after budget announcement by the government, we held PBB an event at St Peter's Church venue in Wellington. The event was sponsored by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), the Public Health Association New Zealand (PHANZ) Wellington branch, and the Social Justice Group of St Peter's on Willis, Te Aro, Wellington. The event began with brief introductions from CPAG (Lisa Woods), PHANZ (Ramil Adhikari) and Social Justice Group (Gail Duncan) and MC Josie Pagani.



Speakers at the event were:

- Hon Priyanka Radhakrishnan, Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector
- Murray Edridge (Wellington City Missioner)
- Jonathan Boston (Victoria University)
- Huhana Lyndon (Ngātiwai Trust Board)
- Charles Waldegrave (Family Centre)
- Louise Delany (Tax Justice Aotearoa)
- Lisa Te Morenga (Health Coalition Aotearoa)

Promoting Seminars & Conferences

We have also continuously promoted the public health related webinars/ seminars and conferences happening in Wellington region particularly in Universities like, Otago, Massey & Victoria via our Bulletin. Mostly the webinars were via zoom due to COVID pandemic.

UCAN petition: Remove prescription fees for Community Services Card Holders

Professor Nikki Turner initiated this parliamentary petition on behalf of UCAN – United Community Action Network regarding community services card holders to remove prescription fees for Community Service Card holders. This petition was discussed at our Wellington branch PHA meeting on 11/10/2022 and disseminated through branch bulletin for encouragement for all Wellington Based members to sign and circulate. It was appreciated by our Branch's active supporter and UCAN Chair Debbie Leyland.

There is a link to an article about the petition

<https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/article/news/petition-asks-parliament-remove-5-prescription-fee-community-service-card-holders>

NZAE 2022 | NZ Association of Economists Conference | June 29 – 1 July 2022, Wellington New Zealand

Gail presented on ‘Valuing mortality related consequences of Pandemic against public health measures taken during the Pandemic.’ She had focused on the key difference in outcomes in the third year of the pandemic appears to be the nature of the vigour of initial response to reduce opportunity for transmission (an elimination approach) and the health system in the country, the ability of people to access medical care and delivery of services. The impact on business was not as great as initially feared, instead was similar to a natural disaster in terms of impact on certain businesses (e.g., hospitality) due to loss of patronage. These circumstances compare with impact on tourist operators and businesses following the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake or Whakaari/White Island eruption in 2019. Recovery from such circumstances is slow.

Also, She mentioned on the comparison of USA, New Zealand, UK and China economies demonstrates the relative cost of loss of life during the pandemic and the effectiveness of health systems and legislation to reduce the loss of life. An estimation of the percentage of value of lives lost (VSL) to the total wealth of the economy could inform further investment in public health and motivate strong public health initiatives early into a pandemic for the benefit of longer-term economic recovery.



Ngā Rerenga o Te Tiriti/Our Treaty Journey

The Wellington branch strongly abides by the Te Rerenga Tiriti.

Building relationship: The branch able to create a good relationship with Ora Toa, Taeaomanino trust & Pae Tu Mokai O Taurira.

<https://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz/assets/Tools-and-Resources/Building-closer-partnerships-with-Maori-Principles.pdf>

Membership

Branch membership has audience in total are 97. Between 5 – 7 people actively contribute to Branch meetings. We are currently seeking people to fulfil some roles.

Noho ora mai,

Dr. Ramil Adhikari
Co-Chairs of PHA Wellington branch

Vacancies in the PHA Wellington Branch

Branch positions available for June 2023 – June 2024

Co-Chair - vacant

Secretary for Branch meetings only – vacant

Treasurer – vacant

Newsletter co-ordinator – vacant

Fundraising co-ordinator – vacant

If you are interested in a role please contact
wellington@pha.org.nz or Ramil Adhikari on
dr_ramils@yahoo.com

