



Wellbeing SA

Panel Member Biographies and Partnership Overviews



Professor Katina D'Onise Executive Director Prevention and Population Health Wellbeing SA Government of South Australia

Professor Katina D'Onise is a public health physician and epidemiologist with extensive experience working across a range of senior leadership positions in population health and generating population health research that is of interest and applicable to government priorities. Katina is currently the executive director of the Prevention and Population Health Directorate at Wellbeing SA. She is also the co-director of the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Advancing Health in All Policies Implementation and adjunct professor at the University of Adelaide's School of Population Health. Her research interests are in child public health, inequalities in health, Aboriginal health, injury prevention, impact evaluation, and the use of research for public policy, including research-to-policy translation.



Ms. Laurianne Reinsborough Director Health Promotion Branch Prevention and Population Health Wellbeing SA Government of South Australia

Laurianne Reinsborough is the Director of Health Promotion at Wellbeing SA. Laurianne has worked more than 20 years in prevention and health promotion, first in New Zealand and now in Australia. Laurianne has held senior positions in the health, injury prevention and volunteer sectors. Laurianne has extensive experience in the planning and implementation of health-related policies, programs and campaigns and brings experience in capacity building and developing stakeholder relationships. Laurianne sits on the Executive Committee, of the Global Network for Health in All Policies and is also a board member of the e-Mental Health International Collaborative (eMHIC).



Ms. Amy Porcelli Principal Project Officer, Health Promotion Branch Prevention and Population Health Wellbeing SA Government of South Australia

Amy Porcelli is a principal project officer in the Health Promotion Branch, at Wellbeing SA. Amy has worked in various health promotion and public health policy roles since 2008 and has a special interest in the social determinants of health and in Aboriginal Health. She has been intimately involved in the development and implementation of South Australia's Health in All Policies approach, including making significant contributions to its current model, focused on the establishment of Public Health Partner Authorities (PHPAs). In her current role, Amy is leading the development of a PHPA Strategy, building on the learnings gained from implementing Health in All Policies in the state, as well as a Health Promotion Workforce Strategy. She also recently supported the development of South Australia's first Aboriginal Health Promotion Strategy, focusing on the cultural determinants of health. Amy has an Honours Degree in Science and a Master of Public Health.

Overview of the partnership with the Department for Correctional Services— Under the Public Health Partner Authority (PHPA) partnership, the Department for Correctional Services and Wellbeing SA have been co-leading a significant policy change process to support the provision of healthier meal choices to prisoners in South Australia. The process used action research to promote implementation.



Mr. John Strachan Principal Advisor, Offender Services State-wide Operations, Department for Correctional Services

John is a social worker with over 22 years' experience working across health, mental health and correctional service settings. Prior to coming to the Department for Correctional Services, John worked as a Sector Manager for 9 years for Southern Adelaide Mental Health Services providing operational oversight and leadership for acute, sub-acute, community and rehabilitation services for adult mental health clients. In 2017, he moved within the Department for Correctional Services to become Principal Advisor, Offender Services. This role provides leadership and oversight across South Australia's 9 prisons for people in custody with complex health, mental health and disability related conditions. This includes leading and managing the National Disability Insurance Scheme services established by the Department. In addition, John is the lead in the Department for Correctional Services' implementation of the PHPA with Wellbeing SA.

Overview of the partnership with the University of Adelaide

In 2019, a PHPA Agreement was signed between the School of Public Health, the University of Adelaide, the Department for Health and Wellbeing and Wellbeing SA (once officially established in 2020). The collaborative work of the partnership has broadly focused on supporting population health and wellbeing through building the skills and knowledge of the public health workforce. This has translated into actions focused on: 1) strengthening and supporting the public health workforce to be job ready; 2) building research capacity; and 3) building an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.



Professor Tracy Merlin Interim Head School of Public Health University of Adelaide South Australia

Professor Tracy Merlin, BA (Hons), MPH, PhD is a clinical epidemiologist and methodologist with an international reputation in evidence synthesis, evidence-based health policy and clinical practice guideline development. She holds concurrent roles as Head of the School of Public Health, at the University of Adelaide, Chair of the University's peak academic governance (Academic Board) and member of the University's Council.

She is also the co-creator and Director of Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA), an agency that assesses the safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of health technologies entering into the health system and being considered for public funding. She has strong connections with the national and international Health Technology Assessment community, including being elected as Chair (2020–2023) of the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) – representing 50 agencies across 31 countries.

