Global Health Gateway

Global Health Gateway Annual Report 2011-2012

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Global Health Gateway

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About the Global Health Gateway

"The Global Health Gateway is a non-for-profit, volunteer-driven resource that aims to assist health workers in identifying helpful and sustainable pathways for contributing to global health."

The last few decades have seen drastic changes to our understanding of medicine and disease, health and wellbeing, national and international boundaries, culture and cross-cultural interactions. In many ways health delivery has become more challenging, with the emergence of new diseases, the re-emergence of old diseases, population migration, climate change and ongoing civil and international conflicts. And yet, our generation lives at an exciting time of growing international awareness of global health; a proliferation of global health institutions and alliances; and increasing interest and opportunity for collaboration between colleagues in low and high income countries.

In 2009, a group of young health professionals noted a disconnect between health professionals passionate about global health and the myriad of opportunities for contribution. Clearly there was need for a community, in which health workers could collaborate, debate, and learn about how to make sustainable contributions to global health. The Global Health Gateway was conceived with the aim of assisting health workers from Australia and New Zealand to identify ways to genuinely and sustainably contribute to global health.

The idea of an online global health community and resource evolved over months of discussion and consultation with global health leaders and educators. The Global Health Gateway was formally launched on World Health Day 2010.

Vision

A world in which all people are enabled to enjoy a healthy life with equitable access to healthcare.

Mission

To inspire and equip individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds to contribute as global citizens to effective, appropriate and sustainable health improvements for humanity.

Goals

1. To provide a gateway and facilitate access to Global Health related events, education and work, as well as the sharing of ideas and opportunities at home and abroad
2. To develop a network and foster community between individuals and organisations who are interested in Global Health.
3. To deliver resources that will educate and inspire individuals to engage with Global Health.
4. To encourage dynamic interaction and debate amongst users within the Global Health Gateway and the wider community.

We achieve this thanks to the valued the support of our partners and our team of volunteers.

Message from the Global Health Gateway team

'How can I get involved in global health?'

is a question regularly asked by students and young health professionals upon glimpsing the need and opportunity for contribution to global health. In a field as wide as the world, the answer is vexed by an abundance of diverse opportunities and pathways. In reality, the answer is a journey, shaped by learning, experience, and mentorship. The Global Health Gateway was launched 2 years ago to facilitate and augment this process of exploration.

Over the last 12 months, the Global Health Gateway website was visited by more than 22,000 users, shared 163 events ,and 155 work, volunteer and training opportunities from >50 different global health institutions, and published 27 personal stories and feature articles. We have more than 1000 registered users who contribute to discussion, opportunities and events. As important has been the important anecdotal evidence of the inspiration to individual health workers. The Gateway is now established as a primary resource for global health in Australia and New Zealand, and has certainly filled a previously untapped niche.

We are particularly grateful for the support of our partners: Nossal Institute for Global Health, the Burnet Institute, Centre for International Child Health, Monash University and AusAid. The guidance of our advisory board – Professor Trevor Duke, Tim Moore, Farah Farouque, Marian Brown, Russell Hocking, Rebecca Lees and Natalie Gray - has been invaluable.

Finally, the achievements of the Global Health Gateway would not be possible without the enormous contribution of volunteers.

The prospects for the Global Health Gateway's contributions to global health through the Australasian health community are exciting. We look forward to the year ahead.

Dr Rami Subhi & Dr Jennifer Jamieson for the Global Health Gateway Team

Highlights
from 2011-2012

Over the last year we have:

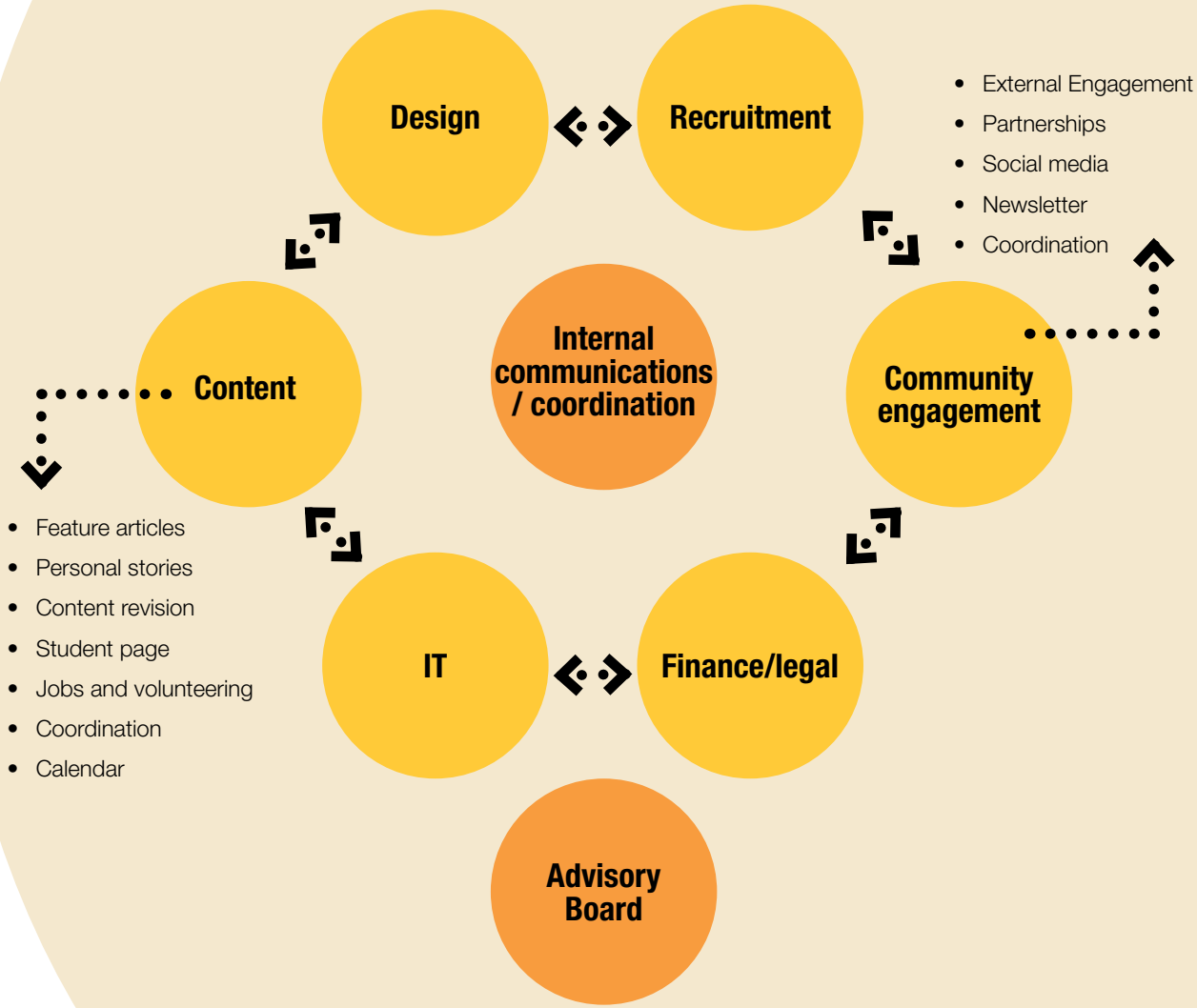
- Inspired and educated visitors with 27 feature articles and 9 personal stories
- Expanded our online global health community with > 1000 registrants and >22,000 visits per year
- Participated in over 6 different global health conferences and events around Australia and New Zealand
- Posted 163 events 95 work and volunteering opportunities and 55 education & training opportunities (a 60% increase in comparison to last year),
- Sent monthly newsletters to 760 newsletter subscribers
- Received more than $14,000 funding to consolidate and expand our activities
- In-kind support from individuals and organisations worth > $99,000
- Continued to foster our partnerships with the Burnet Institute, the Centre for International Child Health (CICH), the Nossal Institute for Global Health, AusAID and Monash University

Organisation of the Global Health Gateway

The Global Health Gateway is a non-for-profit, volunteer run organisation, with members from all over Australia and New Zealand. Over the last 12 months, we have adopted a non-hierarchical and decentralised model that has allowed the division of work across various teams. Coordination occurs remotely on an ongoing basis, and at monthly meetings, held at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, and via video-conferencing for remote members.

The Global Health Gateway team comprises:

- A core group of volunteers who contribute their skills in a variety of ways
- A Steering Committee, who liaise at monthly meetings and online forum discussions
- An Advisory Board of experts in global health, design, PR, management and finance
- The Steering Committee is structured around six key domains: Content, Community Engagement, IT / Web, Graphic Design, Finance / Legal and Recruitment.



Content

The Global Health Gateway content team provides a range of global health vocational and training resources designed to inspire and educate users. Over the past year the Global Health Gateway content team has worked hard to improve the quality of content and its delivery, resulting in a truly unique resource that is freely accessible and frequently updated. Our growing team now consists of 10 committed volunteers who coordinate feature articles, core vocational and training resources, and an interactive community forum and calendar.

Feature articles include: reviews of global health related books and films, profiles of global health organisations and campaigns, personal perspectives on topical issues, as well as the extremely popular personal stories (see box). These follow bi-monthly themes and have included: Non-communicable disease, Women's health, Indigenous health, and Eye health.

Global Health Gateway core content is continually revised and expanded, and we have recently introduced the 'Students' and 'Organisations' sections in response to user feedback. Events, training, work and volunteer opportunities are shared via an interactive Calendar and community Forum. Over the past year these have attracted 50% more contributions than the prior year, including an increasing number of direct posts from organisations and general users.

Priorities for the current year include:

- Supporting our growing team of volunteers
- Fully revising the content and presentation of core resources
- Developing vocational and training opportunity databases

example

Personal Stories are designed to inspire and inform readers, giving them a really personal insight into global health practice. Here is an excerpt featuring Ju-Lin, a Nutritionist from Melbourne doing health promotion in Mongolia.

GHG: Tell us about your work as a nutritionist with the Department of Health in Mongolia?

JL: I lived and worked in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for 12 months as a Nutrition Officer in the Health Promotion Division, Department of Health of Mongolia through the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program, an Australian Government, AusAID initiative. I can't really define a particular way I came to have this position, but I suppose it was a stroke of good timing from various personal, professional and external aspects that made this a great next step for me.

My time in Mongolia was unique and arduous, yet amazing and fun experience. As Nutrition Officer I worked with my counterparts to plan and implement evidence-based strategies to reduce unhealthy nutrition behaviours. This in itself was a challenge given the traditional Mongolian diet, which is still favoured by the rapidly urbanising Mongolian population, consists of fatty, salty mutton and few vegetables. My role included producing culturally appropriate resources, assisting with the co-ordination of health awareness campaigns such as World Diabetes Day, and facilitating training and skill development sessions for staff and colleagues. It also involved a lot of patience, flexibility, creativity and thinking outside the square to address a given task. I had not thought I would find myself in the staff kitchen demonstrating healthier cooking methods to the cooks as part of my role!

GHG: What are your tips for people interested in working in global health?

JL: One of my previous managers once told me 'You can't save the world, Ju-Lin.' After having some time to digest these seemingly harsh and discouraging words, I was able to understand the point that my manager was making, and have taken this with me in my endeavours since - knowing that whilst I alone cannot save the world, through my actions and collaboration with others, changes towards a safe, healthy world free of inequality can be made. It is the small changes and what may seem like insignificant experiences from which these differences can be made. So get out there and go for it!

Community engagement

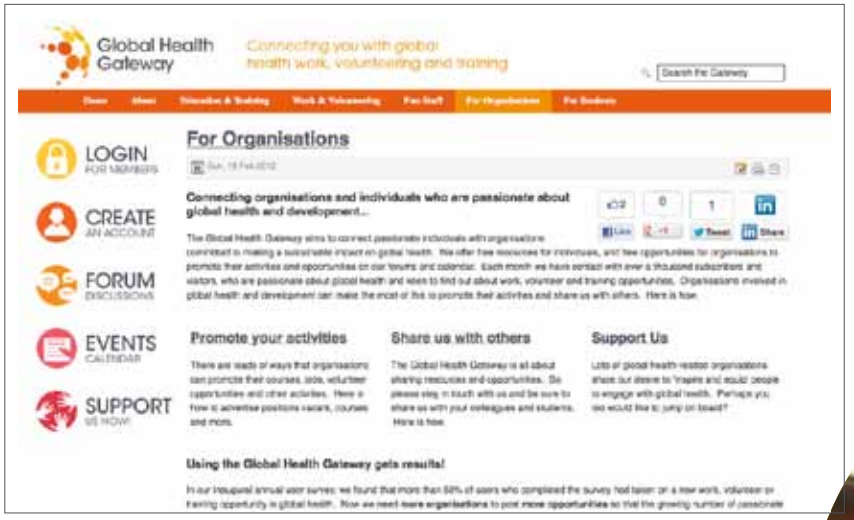
In the past year, the community engagement team has continued to expand its activities for individuals and organisations. Individuals often encounter the Global Health Gateway through recommendation, meeting us at events and conferences, and linking in via social media.

Organisations and institutions are encouraged to use the Global Health Gateway to promote their education, training, work & volunteer opportunities and to share the website resources with their members.

This year saw the development of a social media team, dedicated to linking the Global Health Gateway and its users through online platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Already we have seen a significant increase in the number of users referred from these sources and we expect a steady increase in user numbers as our social media plan is fully implemented.

Some of the ways in which organisations can partner with the Global Health Gateway:

- We can promote organisations by running a profile on how the organisation can help individuals remain involved in global health
- Inform us about events or training which you are hosting - these can be advertised on our calendar, in our monthly newsletter and through our social media. Additionally, more information can be posted on our forum.
- Let us know about any donations or in-kind support through which we may be able to further advertise your organisation, e.g. training courses, publications.
- Connect with us on social media – including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



Partnerships and collaborations

Some highlights from 2011-2012:

- Global Health Gateway has been involved in a number of events including:

  The annual Nossal Global Health Forum (Melbourne), the AMSA Global Health Conference (Sydney), Ignite Events (Melbourne), AMREP World Health Day Forum (Melbourne, Vic Optometry Careers Expo (Melbourne), Foundation Week for University of Melbourne students (Melbourne).

- Development of a 'For Organisations' page, to facilitate the process of posting opportunities on the website by organisations, expanding linkages with academic and volunteer organisations and development of a social media team dedicated to expanding the reach of the Global Health Gateway via Facebook and Twitter.

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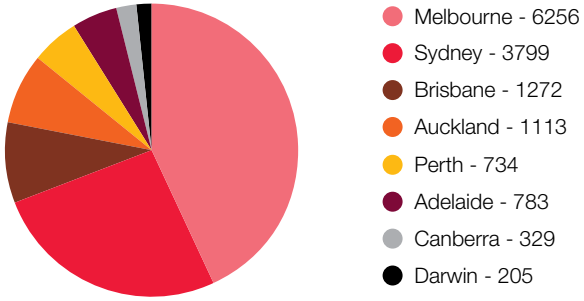
Monitoring and evaluation

At the Global Health Gateway, we recognise the importance of monitoring and evaluation of progress. Part of this is understanding traffic to the website.



Distribution of visitors from Australia and New Zealand

We recognise that more important parameters to measure are how the Gateway has inspired and equipped individuals to pursue opportunities in global health. These are more difficult to measure, and in the upcoming year, will be a focus of our evaluation activities.

In 2011 and 2012 the Gateway has conducted surveys in which we have received valuable information on what our users like, dislike and would improve the site. Each time this has been conducted we have learnt what is important to our users and it enables us to focus on projects in the following 12 months to align with this. 2011-12 saw a great improvement in the navigation and presentation of our website and this coming 12 months will see an increased focus on engagement with our users and organisations.

To find out more about the reach of our activities, email **info@globalhealthgateway.org.au**.

In the year 2011-12, the Global Health Gateway website had:

22,600 visitors

60% new visitors

40% returning visitors

64% Australian visitors

6% New Zealand visitors

Progress from last year, the website had:

▲ **390%** in visitors

▲ **580%** in unique visitors

Higher proportion of new vs returning visitors 60% vs 40%

Financial and legal

Expenditure in 2011-12 came in significantly under budget. This was primarily due to a minimisation of community engagement expenses and a decision not to take on a part-time paid administrator. Our surplus will enable us to pursue activities in the 2012-13 year to further our engagement with a focus on multidisciplinary individuals and organisations Australia wide. Exciting developments and opportunities are being sought within the Content and Community Engagement teams to achieve this.

	2011-12	2010-11
Grant Income	19,000	3000
Donations	1000	-
Sales	-	335
Interest	34.80	5
Total income	20,034.80	3340
Expenditure		
Printing/stationary	1397.14	-
Promotions	215	2060
Registration	42.80	202
Total expenditure	1654.94	-
Operating surplus	18,379.86	1078

Pro-bono support

	2011-12	2010-11
Web design and maintenance	15,000	10,000
Website hosting	200	200
Graphic design	4000	2800
Printing	-	300
Committee hours and project hours	80,000	50,000
Total	99,200	63,800

Get involved and support us

The Global Health Gateway is a young and vibrant organisation which seeks to inspire and equip Australian and New Zealand health professionals to engage in global health. Our achievements to date have been made possible by an enormous volunteer contribution, as well as valuable in-kind support and the financial support of the institutions with whom we partner.

If you would like to support the Global Health Gateway, there are many ways to get involved!

1. Use & Share

- Share events on the calendar; advertise jobs, training and work on the forum
- Dialogue! Tell your colleagues & students. Connect via Facebook and Twitter.
- Submit photos, news, articles, personal stories, opinion pieces, profiles!

2. Volunteer your Time & Skills

Join our team of volunteers to contribute your skills. Contact **ambassador@globalhealthgateway.org.au** to express interest.

3. Financial Support

We run a tight budget and the vast majority of our work is done pro-bono by our volunteers.

Contact **treasurer@globalhealthgateway.org.au** for more information regarding donations and support.

Global Health Gateway Team

Steering Committee

Rami Subhi
(Internal Communication)

Melinda Morpeth
(Internal Communications)

Amy Sinclair-Thompson
(Finances & Legal)

Roy Zhang
(Finance)

Mariam Tokhi
(Recruitment & Content)

Sophie McEniry
(Recruitment)

Jenny Jamieson
(Community Engagement)

Peter McGlynn
(Community Engagement)

Mikhaila Lazanyi
(Community Engagement)

Eva Sudbury
(Community Engagement)

Nikki Gambhir
(Community Engagement)

Georgie Lyons
(Community Engagement)

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(Community Engagement)

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(Community Engagement)

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(Content)

Penny Brussen
(Content)

Kate Sullivan
(Content)

Pamela Mantaring
(Content)

Siti Nordin
(Content)

Alyce Wilson
(Content & Community Engagement)

Cattram Nguyen
(Content & Community Engagement)

Jane Li
(IT)

Advisory Board:

Trevor Duke (CICH)

Tim Moore (Nossal)

Marion Brown (Burnet)

Rebecca Lees (World Vision)

Natalie Gray (Oxfam)

Farah Farouque (The Age)

Russell Hocking
(Australian Volunteers International)

Contact us

info@globalhealthgateway.org.au

www.globalhealthgateway.org.au

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