

ACOSH (WA) – 40 years
[ACOSH – 46 years]

Bruce Armstrong

MINUTES OF THE FOUNDATION MEETING
OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH (W.A.)

Held at the Australian Medical Association Offices,
8 Kings Park Road, on Wednesday, the 17th of November 1971
commencing at 4.30p.m. The meeting commenced with
Dr. Max Canning, Chairman of the Preventive Education
Committee of the Royal Australian College of General
Practitioners in the chair.

APOLOGIES:

Dr. Laurie
Dr. Letham
Mr. Trouchet
Mr. J. Carr.

PRESENT:

In addition to the Chairman, Dr. M.G. Davey, Dr. H.R.
Elphick Group Captain A.G. Fergusson-Stewart, Dr. B.M.
Armstrong, Professor Barter and Dr. R.M. Porter.

The importance of ACOSH

In an introductory statement Dr. Canning explained that the formation of ACOSH had been a project organised through the Preventive Education Committee of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and congratulated the foundation members for supporting the formation of this organisation. He then nominated Dr. R.M. Porter as Chairman for the foundation meeting and this was agreed.

Dr. Porter then made a statement regarding previous moves for the development of an organisation such as ACOSH culminating in the present programme. He mentioned particularly the assistance given by Dr. Cotter Harvey, the President of the parent in N.S.W.

Dr. Porter then introduced the draft of suggested rules of the proposed organisation. These were accepted as a basis subject to modification on a motion moved by Professor Barter, seconded by Dr. Canning. Modifications to be considered :-

- (1) The name to be accepted for the time being, but may require to be re-considered later.
- (2) That all members and member bodies be required to pay a subscription.
- (3) That the subscription be five dollars per annum.

The following office bearers were elected to hold office until the first annual meeting :-

President:	Dr. H.R. Elphick
Secretary:	Dr. R.M. Porter
Treasurer:	Group Captain, A.G.Fergusson-Stewart.

The importance of Cotter Harvey

Concerned by the growing incidence of carcinoma of the lung, Harvey led the campaign against tobacco smoking. In 1965 he urged the founding of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health. He incurred some unpopularity, particularly with the tobacco companies, who continued to deny that there was a causal link between smoking and disease. He visited schools and sporting bodies, regularly wrote to the press, and persuaded other medical organisations and colleagues to join the campaign. One specific achievement was the banning of cigarette vending machines in hospitals. When progress seemed slow, he persisted, saying that he had great faith in 'the inevitability of gradualness'. Much of the change in the attitudes of Australians to smoking can be attributed to Harvey and those whom he mobilised.

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/harvey-william-cotterburnell-12604>

ACOSH - Foundations

- 7th March 1962 – First report of the Royal College of Physicians of London – *Smoking and Health*
- Later in 1962 – NHMRC resolution on smoking and health
- October 1962 – NAPTA *National Tuberculosis and Chest Association* position statement on Smoking & Health (Chair Dr William Cotter Burnell Harvey)

NAPTA – Smoking & Health – Oct 1962

To Mull - for Press

FD 62

SMOKING & HEALTH.

N.A.S.T.A. now encompasses all chest diseases, and in watching of the keen interest the reactions of Governments and various bodies to the already historic Report by the Royal College of Physicians of London on Smoking and Health. This "sub-filled report" to quote one of the event grade medical papers, the Reader's Digest, "leaves little room for further doubt that cigarettes are harmful to the health of smokers". N.A.S.T.A. fully accepts this authoritative and scientific report.

A tremendous amount of cooperation will be required, by interested bodies, notably governments, tobacco companies, life insurance offices, and medical and nursing professions, trade unions, the various cancer organizations, and voluntary bodies such as the National Tuberculosis and Chest Association (N.A.P.T.A.), the Heart Foundation, and the like.

I am sanguine enough to believe that in the not-so-distant future, this merging and welding together of groups of citizens interested in a social and public health problem of rapidly increasing magnitude will begin to take place, and to become effective.

Cotter
Harvey.
Smoking
and lung
cancer.
Australian
Nurses
Journal
March
1963

An meeting of NAPTA - has'64
resolved (motion by Arlesine, C.A.)

"That N.A.P.T.A. take steps to
invite all bodies interested in the
problem of smoking as a health
hazard to nominate representatives
to attend a conference at a time
& place to be decided to formulate
plans directed towards combatting
this health menace"

NAPTA
Resolution
November
1964

Inaugural meeting

- Invitations sent 7th July 1965
- Agendas mailed 21st July 1965
- Meeting held 29th July 1965

7th July, 1965

The Honorable the Minister for Health,
Dept. of Health,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Mr. Swartz,

At the Annual Meeting of the National Tuberculosis and Chest Association held in Canberra in November last, the following resolution was carried:-

"That N.A.P.T.A. take steps to invite all bodies interested in the problem of smoking as a health hazard to nominate representatives to attend a conference at a time and place to be decided to formulate plans directed towards combatting this Public Health menace."

In the belief that you will approve of this resolution, I would be pleased if you would care to send a representative to the Meeting I have called of interested bodies, which will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, July 29th, in the Council Room, 2nd Floor, B.M.A. House, 135 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President



MINISTER FOR HEALTH.
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

21st July, 1965.

Dear Dr. Cotter Harvey,

Thank you for your letter of 7th July, 1965, inviting me to send a representative to the meeting which you have called for Thursday, 29th July, in the Council Room, Second Floor, B.M.A. House, 135 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

The Commonwealth Government's participation in the formulation of plans directed towards combatting smoking as a health hazard depends on Government policy. For this reason, I do not think that it would be appropriate for a representative from my Department to participate actively in a conference held to formulate such plans.

However, I would be pleased to send an observer to the conference and I have arranged for Dr. J.H.R. Tremayne, First Assistant Director-General of the Tuberculosis Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health, to attend the Conference for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. W. Swartz'.

R. W. Swartz

Dr. Cotter Harvey, C.B.E.,
President,
National Tuberculosis & Chest Association,
135 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.



MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

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Yours sincerely,

R. W. Swartz

Dr. Cotter Harvey, C.B.E.,
President,
National Tuberculosis & Chest Association,
135 Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

CONFERENCE ON SMOKING AND HEALTH. 29 July, 1965. LIST OF THOSE INVITEDAND POSITION AS AT 21 July, 1965"A" ACCEPTED. *Letter R sent*

Australian Medical Association.	Dr. B. A. Cook.
Royal Australasian College of Physicians.	Dr. H. Maynard Rennie.
College of Pathologists.	Professor F. R. Magarey.
Australian College of General Practitioners.	acceptance taken from list attached to your letter to Fr. Hanson of 28 June, 1965
National Council of Women.	Mrs. C. A. Hamilton. Aust. Pres.
Anti-Smoking League of Victoria.	Mr. Steed of 7th Day Adventists rep.
7th Day Adventists.	Mr Steed.
Federal Pharmaceutical Guild of Aust.	Mr. J. P. Matthews.
A. C. T. Advisory Council.	Mr. R. P. Greenish.
Asthma Foundation.	Mr. Justice Hardie.
Australian Cancer Society.	Dr. Hanson.
N.S.W. Division NAPFA.	
S.A. Division NAPFA.	NSW Divn. representing.
Victorian Divn.	Mr. H. Buchanan as observer.
Headmasters Conference.	Mr. McLucas
Headmistresses Association.	Miss Medway.
Health Educn. Adv. Cttee.	Dr. Krister.
Director of Maternal & Child Welfare.	Dr. Solomons.

"B" No REPLY. A letter inviting them with a copy of agenda has been sent which follows up the original invitation.

Faculty of Anaesthetists.	National Fitness Council
College of Radiologists.	Y.M.C.A.
Girl Guides Association.	Y.W.C.A.
Queensland Health Education Council	
Australian Dental Association.	
Countrywomens' Association.	
Housewives Association.	
Royal Australian Federation of Nursing.	
Parents' & Citizens' Federation.	
Australian Trained Nurses Assn.	
Thoracic Society.	
Outward Bound.	
Federation of Police-Citizens Boys Clubs.	

"C" Declined but asked to reconsider. *Letter C sent*

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Royal College of Obst. & Gynae.

Cardiac Society

Boy Scouts Association

National Heart Foundation.

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*"D" No action on refusal
Australian Red Cross*

Inaugural meeting agenda

N.A.P.T.A.

CONFERENCE ON SMOKING AND HEALTH.

B.M.A. Council Hall, 135 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Thursday, 29 July, 1965 at 2.30 pm

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- Read Nappa Resolution*
1. Welcome and apologies.
 2. Address by NAPPA's National President (Dr. Gertor Harvey OBE)
 3. Consideration of Formation of National Council on Smoking and Health.
 4. Discussion of future plans.
 5. General.

Founding resolution

Dr. WINTON'S Resolution No. 1 Seconded by Pastor
STEED was then put to the meeting

Resolution No. 1

*"This meeting representing professional, voluntary, educational and youth organisations, and recognising the hazards to health of smoking, recommends the establishment of a National Council on Smoking and Health in order to unify efforts towards the alleviation of this menace to the National health. >

The resolution was carried with Dr. H. Maynard Rennie dissenting.

Dissent

17. Dr. H. MAYNARD RENNIE (Royal Australian College of Physicians) considered that the formation of the proposed Council was not the best solution and that the National Health and Medical Research Council (N.H.M.R.C.) should be left to carry out a "Smoking and Health" plan, supported by this meeting or by N.A.P.T.A.

A new name

Minutes of Steering Committee 16th August 1965

4. NAME OF THE COUNCIL TO BE FORMED. The Chairman referred to the resolution contained in para. 20 of the Minutes of the Conference which recommended the formation of a "National Council on Smoking and Health": he said that after further consideration he felt that a more appropriate title would be "Australian Council on Smoking and Health" - the abbreviation of which "ACOSH" was not uneuphonic and would allow some play on the idea of a weapon against smoking. This title was accepted by the Committee.