

# ***Not In My Backyard: How globalisation can be harnessed to support local equality, inclusion and community***

**Fran Baum**

SACHRU/Public Health  
Flinders University  
Communities in Control, June 2008



inspiring achievement

## **Outline of talk**

- 1 **Local & global experience I will draw on**
- 2 **Ideas, Principles and Theories**
- 3 **Practical Examples**
- 4 **New ways of thinking an agenda for a sustainable healthy and convivial future**

## NIMBY

“Not In My Back Yard.” A term for a person who resists unwanted development, such as manufacturing plants, prisons, power companies, or chemical companies in his or her own neighbourhood or town.

The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition. 2002.

**Has negative overtones – selfishness but are there “unwanted developments” from globalisation that are bad for the health and well being of communities? Can local action overcome these? Do some aspects of globalisation assist this local action?**



Commission on the Social Determinants of Health

Local & global experience I will draw on



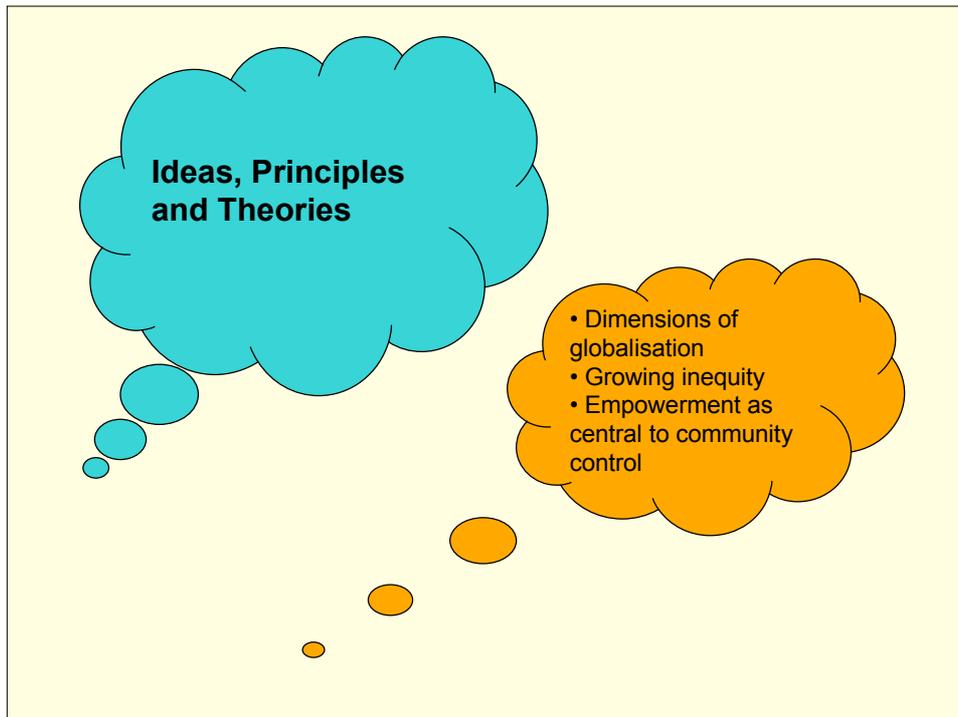
People's Health Movement



Community Health



My local Resident's Association



## ‘Globalisation’ – impacts on local communities

- **Global village**
  - communications, travel and transport – easier, faster, more connected
  - Fashions, culture, McCulture
  - health concerns: communicable disease, tobacco, etc
- **Global economic integration**
  - configuration of economic relationships, stocks and flows, dynamics
- **Global regime of governance**
  - structures of economic and political control
- **Global Environment**
  - warming of atmosphere
  - degradation of natural environments
  - Good planets are hard to find so we are all in this together



## What is economic globalisation?

- Trade liberalisation, tariff reduction, standards harmonisation and deregulations
- Growth in international trade e.g. 8.6% per year from 1990-99
- Greater mobility of capital and increase in transnational investment
- Global institutions to regulate WTO, GATT, GATS
- Economy takes precedent over environmental protection

Economic rationalism's march continues unabated



**Where is the room for community, solidarity, conviviality, collective action?**

“When inequities become too great the idea of community becomes impossible.”  
(Raymond Arons)

## Health inequities are stubborn

- Overall health improving in most regions of the world
- Health inequities appear to be increasing
- Distribution of wealth is becoming less equal
- Inequity is bad for social cohesion and well-being

“If people’s perception of their happiness is judged according to what they have relative to others, then substantial economic inequality is a recipe for widespread social discontent”

“..the redress of economic inequality is central to the achievement of a good society”

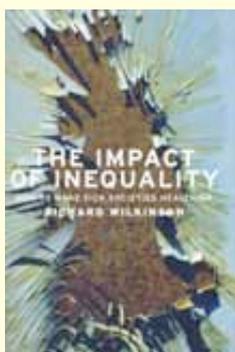
Stilwell & Jordan (2007) Who Gets What? Analysing Economic Inequality in Australia

## CEO total cash remuneration & adult earnings

Year	Average CEO	Full time adult total earnings – private sector	Ratio
1989-90	514,433	29,198	18:1
1995-6	1,148,421	36,494	31:1
2000-1	2,041,921	43,414	47:1
2004-05	3,420,507	54,080	63:1

Source: Stilwell & Jordan, 2007, p. 27.

## Epidemiology of Inequality

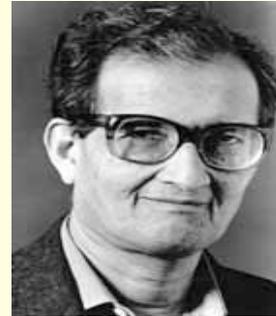


- More equal societies are healthier
- Leads to more just social policies
- Less crime more cohesion

## EMPOWERMENT

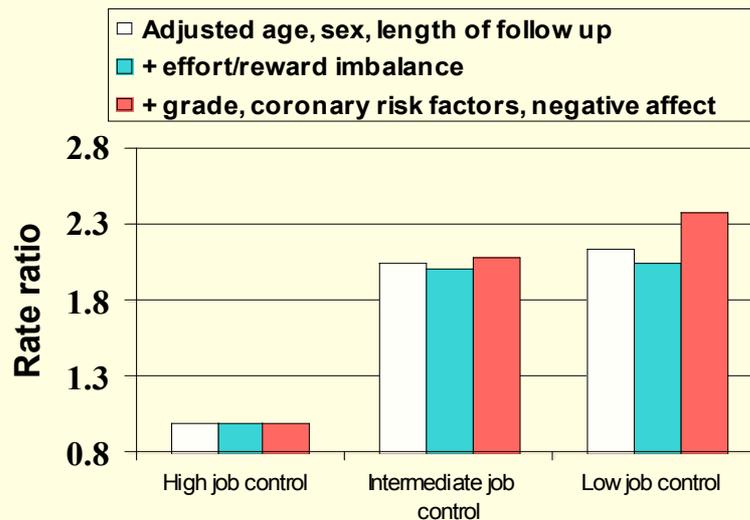
“The success of an economy and of a society cannot be separated from the lives that the members of the society are able to lead... we not only value living well and satisfactorily, **but also appreciate having control over our lives.**”

Amartya Sen (1999) *Development as Freedom*



- Material
- Psychosocial
- Political

## SELF-REPORTED JOB CONTROL AND CHD INCIDENCE WHITEHALL MEN AND WOMEN



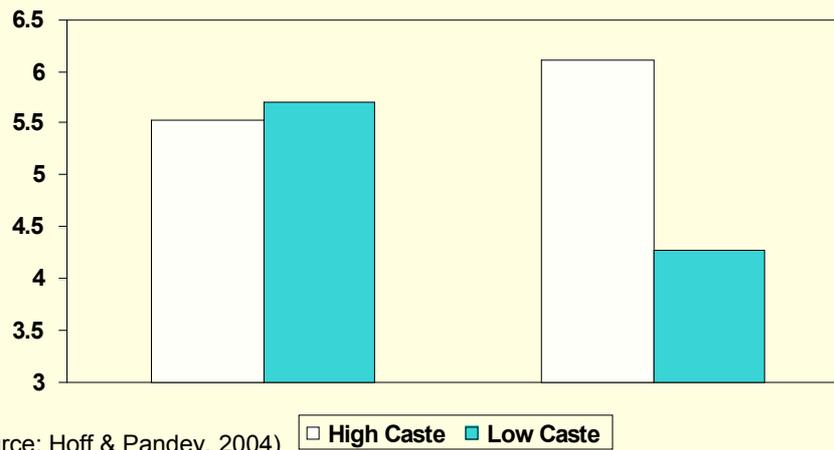
*Bosma et al, 1998*

## NUMBER OF MAZES SOLVED IN 15 MIN: INDIAN CHILDREN 11-12 YEARS

Caste announced?

NO

YES



(Source: Hoff & Pandey, 2004)

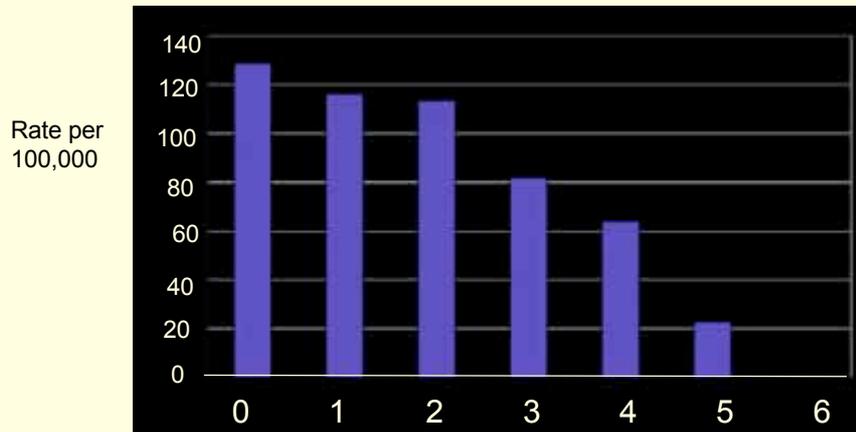
## Canada: Cultural Continuity Factors

Why some bands of Canadian Indigenous peoples had higher rates of suicide than others

1. Self-Government
2. Land Claims
3. Education
4. Health Services
5. Police/Fire Services
6. Cultural Facilities
7. Women in Government
8. Child & Family Services
9. Traditional Language use

Chandler & Lalonde (2008) Horizon 10,1, 68-72

### Youth Suicide Rate by Number of Cultural Continuity Factors Present (1987-1992)



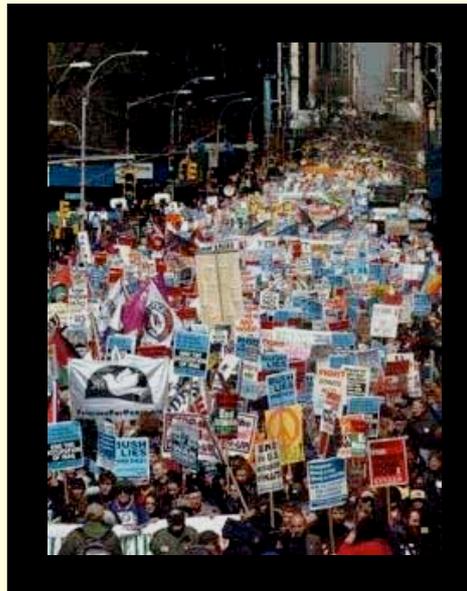
Chandler & Lalonde, 2008: 71

Number of factors present

**Practical Examples:  
Shaping our own  
backyards**



**Solidarity  
built locally  
and  
strengthened  
globally**



## Key local-global issues



- Privatisation of essential services – health, water, power
- Corporate wealth and power – new feudalism which takes power from local communities e.g. small farmers
- Growing global inequity especially between rich and poor countries
- Environmental sustainability – global warming, pollution, reduction of wild places. Development versus environment

## Challenges to economic globalisation are based on local action



## Local groups

- Tell local stories of impacts of economic globalisation
- Organise and mobilise
- Link globally – the power of the internet
- Inspire other movements in across the globe
- Share information

## Global protest halting aspects of globalisation



- Social movements celebrated victory in 2003 when 5th Ministerial meeting of the WTO held in Cancún collapsed when the developing countries, led by African delegates, walked out. Through an unprecedented alliance, backed by worldwide protests, developing countries achieved near equal footing in this week's meeting while rich countries failed to impose their will.

## **The Collapse of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference Cancun**

**“The collapse of the Ministerial, following from that of Seattle for similar reasons, should serve notice to the rich and powerful countries of the international trade system that the time is running out for their narrow interests on the rest of the world. It should signal the beginning of a new way of interaction in international affairs based on a relationship of genuine and mutual respect.” (Africa Trade Network)**

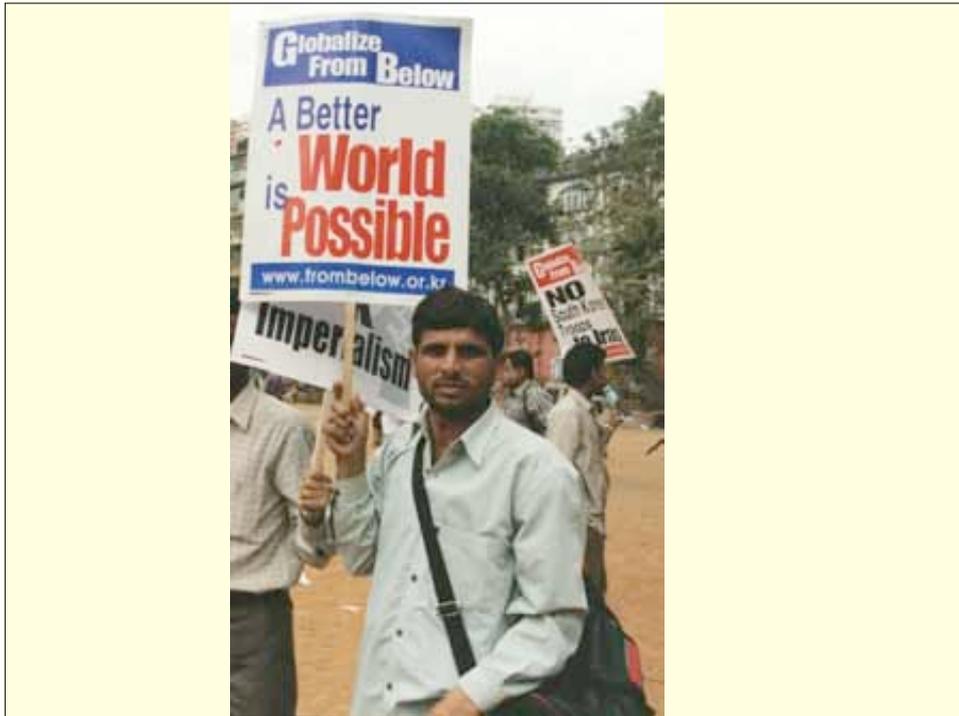
**Didn't just happen in Cancun - built on work of social movements around the world**

## **Another world is possible...**

The World Social Forum that began as an open space for reflection, democratic debate, formulation of proposals and free exchange of experiences has become a process of seeking and building alternatives to neo-liberal globalization and capitalism. All the events, regional and local, and thematic forums have an international dimension.







## Commission on the Social Determinants of Health in a nutshell

- Put SDH on international health agenda and encourage action on them
- Improve health globally
- Reduce health inequities within and between countries
- Create social movement for health equity

[www.who.int/social\\_determinants/en/](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/)



Basic logic: what good does it do to treat people's illnesses .....



then give them no choice but to go back to the conditions that made them sick?

## Commission on Social Determinants of Health



- Bringing people and organisations together to create a global movement
- Civil Society as partners in CSDH process – watch dogs and critical friends of the CSDH

[www.who.int/social\\_determinants/en](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en)



CSDH  
Visit to Self  
employed Women's  
Association  
India 2005



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES: SEWA

- Vegetable sellers in Ahmedabad
- Micro credit Vegetable wholesalers
- Legal right to sell vegetables
- Child care provision
- Health care provision
- Housing
- Pensions
- SEWA Bank



## Closing the Gap in a Generation: Equity through action on the social determinants of health (Sept. 2008)

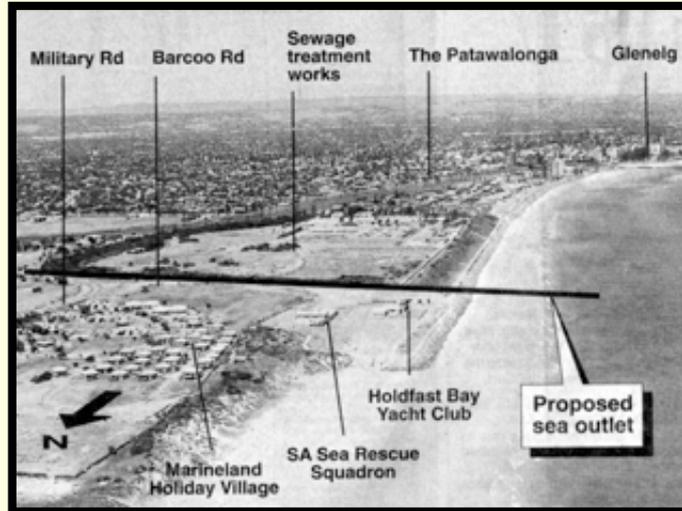
- Strong focus on health equity as sign of successful society
- Empowerment as crucial – economic, social, political
- Will require reallocation of money, resources and power
- Local social movement required to support shift





## Western Coastal Residents Association (WACRA) Adelaide

- Many local groups around Australia taking action on issues and building local community – many of you in audience today!
- Tell story of a vibrant, lively active group in my community that takes action on a range of issues. Some examples .....
- Unsuccessful protest against boat harbour and catchment water outlet and their impact on coast
- Community arts
- Protecting Gulf St. Vincent
- Electricity prices in era of privatization



Proposed sea outlet at West Beach.

*The Advertiser 24/3/1998*



West Beach: view north of pre boat harbour site. Observe the width of beach and the healthy condition of the primary dune. (1995)



West Beach before the construction of the Boat Harbour. Note the width of the beach (1997)



West beach : Erosion and dune fencing damaged and washed away after construction of boat harbour. 15/5/99



West Beach Dune Fencing damage and Beach Erosion  
(15/5/1999)



West Beach Erosion: view north from the boat harbour.  
Note the reduced beach width, exposed drift fencing and eroded foredune. (May 1999)



West Beach: sand dunes cut back even further than the winter before. Note the dune vegetation and exposed root system. The black pipe is dredging sand and seaweed from the West Beach Boat Harbour. 20/5/99

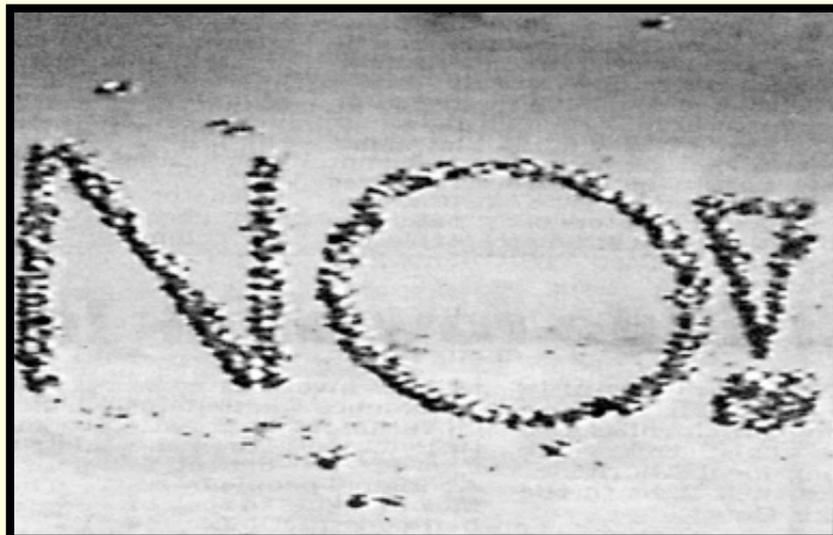
## Community Campaign



- Awareness raising
- Lots of media
- Blockage of boat harbour building site – “tree” of local people
- Boat harbour and outlet built – monitoring of the impact



Community Action: In Henley Square, the clock is counting down the days prior to community action to stop the Barcoo Outlet from being constructed. (Feb 2000)



Protesters join together to make a clear stand on the boat harbour issue. (1998)



Community Protesters (February 1998)



The community blockade at West Beach. 20/3/1998



Marked and unmarked cars lined up at West Beach yesterday to control protesters, including the group on the right.

*Advertiser 1/4/1998*



Protesters are dragged away at West Beach.

*Advertiser 12/5/1998*



Resident Protest at West Beach, near the site of the proposed boat harbour and Barcoo Outlet. (Advertiser 22/3/1997)

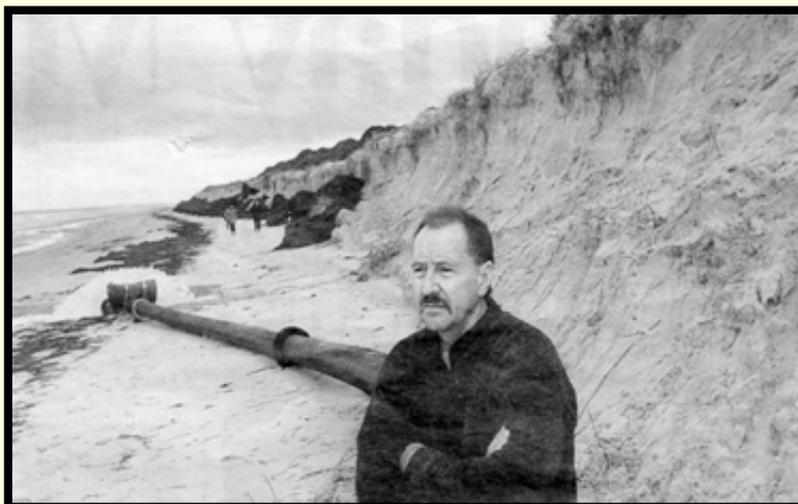


A West Beach protester is bundled away by police.

*Advertiser 8/4/1998*



Protesters voiced their displeasure with state's leader by donning John Olsen masks. *Advertiser* 6/6/1998



West Beach: precious dunes gouged away. Jim Douglas said the government refused to listen to warnings by its own experts. *Sunday Mail* 4/6/2000

## Global Expert supported local campaign

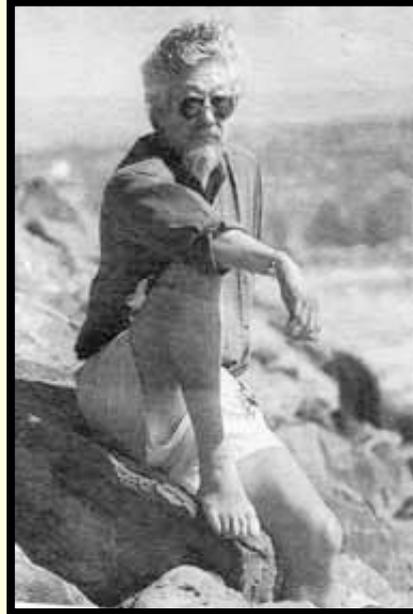
### Environmentalist David Suzuki says Australian stance is embarrassing.

David expressed horror at plans by the State government to build a \$10 million boat harbour at West Beach.

They get the credit for building this but they're not around here 10 years from now when the citizens start adding up the cost' he said. It's a totally irresponsible way of doing things.

Dr. Suzuki said politicians and economists needed to understand that **nature should be respected first and foremost.**

*Advertiser 4/12/1997*



Educated the community  
Exposed the lack of democratic process  
Developed skills  
Friendships formed through challenges  
United our community  
Empowered people through action

What did boat harbour campaign achieve?



# Living Arts Festival 2007

- The Mosaic Sea Creatures
- Henley Beach
- Over 60 friends and families involved through the Residents' Association



**Giant Squid Mosaic being placed**





## World Environment Day, 2006

*Are you concerned about polluted Rivers and Seas?*



*Do YOU want to DO something about it?*

Saturday 5th June is World Environment Day



The Residents' Association is holding a rally at Henley Square at 11am Saturday 5th June

*Come along and hear from*

- ◆ Paul Calica - MP Colton
- ◆ Harold Anderson - Mayor of City of Charles Sturt
- ◆ Tim Dohle - Marine Discovery Centre

*...and many more surprises!*



Protecting Gulf St. Vincent - local action inspired by Global Event

## Spreading the message



## Impact of electricity privatisation

HENLEY & GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.  
**POWER TO THE PEOPLE** PUBLIC FORUM  
SUNDAY JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 2003

### AGENDA

11am Jim Douglas – Welcome, Acknowledgements,  
Introductions, Procedures

Forum Chaired by Adjunct Professor Eleanor Ramsay

11.15 Jim Fitzpatrick – Why are we here?

11.20 Professor Sue Richardson –  
Director Institute of Labour Studies Flinders Uni

11.30 Ms Roslyn Williams – Coordinator Western  
Region Energy Action Group

11.40 Hon Jay Weatherill – Minister for Administrative Services,  
Urban Development & Planning, Gaming, etc.

11.50 Mr Lew Owens – Essential Services Commission

12.00 Mr Andrew Nance – Coordinator Cool  
Communities Conservation Council of SA

12.15 OPEN QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

12.45 RESOLUTIONS

1PM CLOSE

## The community gathers



## Getting the message



## Selling the story



### Local environmental campaigns gain strength from global movements

- Legitimacy from being part of global network of local activists
- Information sharing made possible by internet
- Build grassroots support for global issues such as anti-privatisation and environmental protection
- Locally builds networks and sense of community
- Local leadership develops and strengthens

**Example 4 People's Health  
Movement- local services  
based on community  
control and taking action  
for community as well as  
individual health**

## People's Health Movement

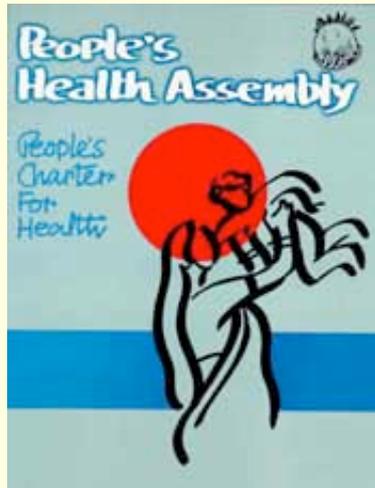
- **Global network of people's health movement formed in 2000**
- **Secretariat based in Cairo**
- **Country circles advocating for health as a human right, attention to social determinants, community controlled health services and against privatization of services essential to health**



<http://www.phmovement.org/cms/>



## PEOPLE'S CHARTER FOR HEALTH (translated into 33 languages)

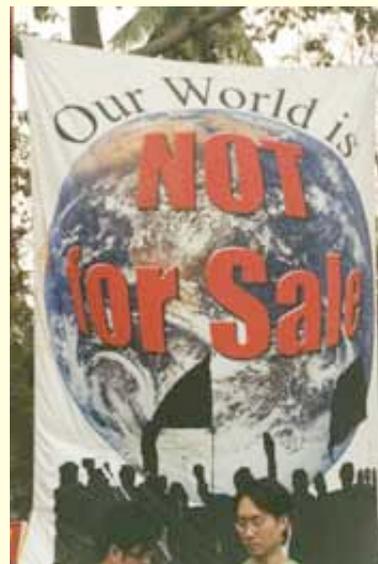


The Charter is built on the views of people's movements and organizations from around the world and was first approved and endorsed at the People's Health Assembly in Bangladesh in December 2000. It is the expression of our common concerns, our vision of a better and healthier world and of our calls for radical action. It is a tool for advocacy and a rallying point for the global health movement.

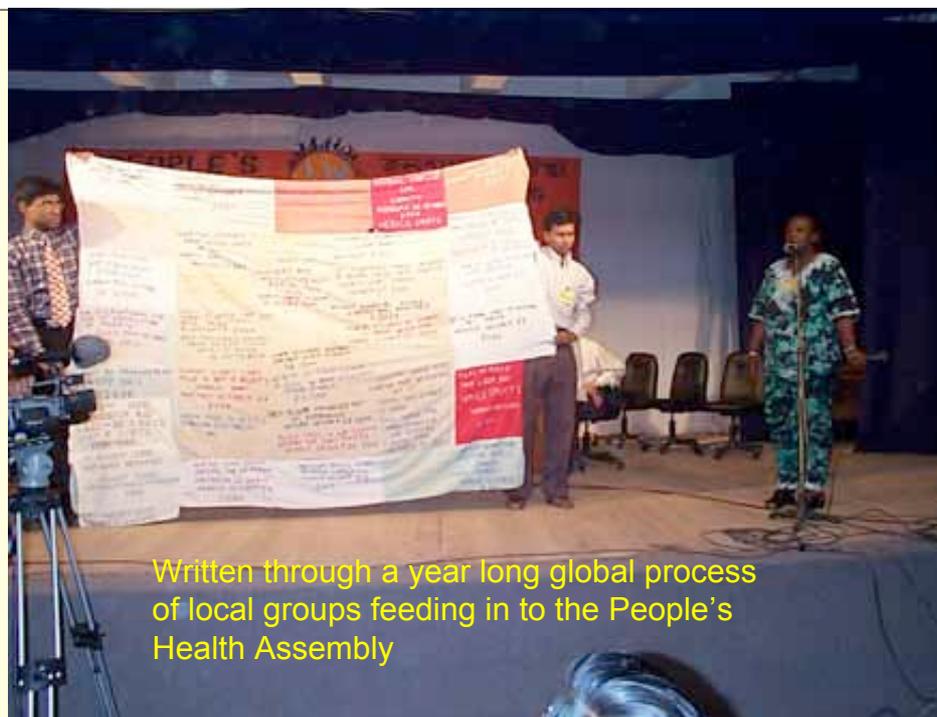
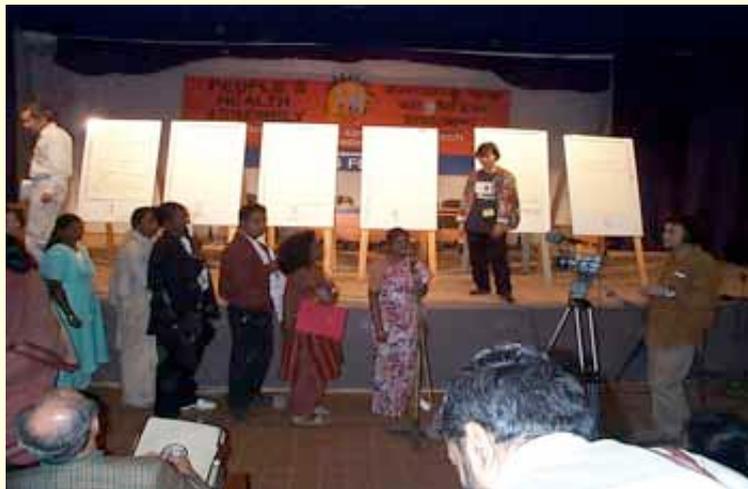


## Health as a Human Right

- ***Health is a reflection of a society's commitment to equity and justice. Health and human rights should prevail over economic and political concerns.***
- ***People's testimonies and academic analysis are crucial to understanding threats to health***



## Developing the People's Health Charter, Bangladesh 2000



Written through a year long global process  
of local groups feeding in to the People's  
Health Assembly

Australians at the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
People's Health Assembly,  
Ecuador, July, 2005



## PHM Right to Health Campaign

- Focus on the conditions that make for health



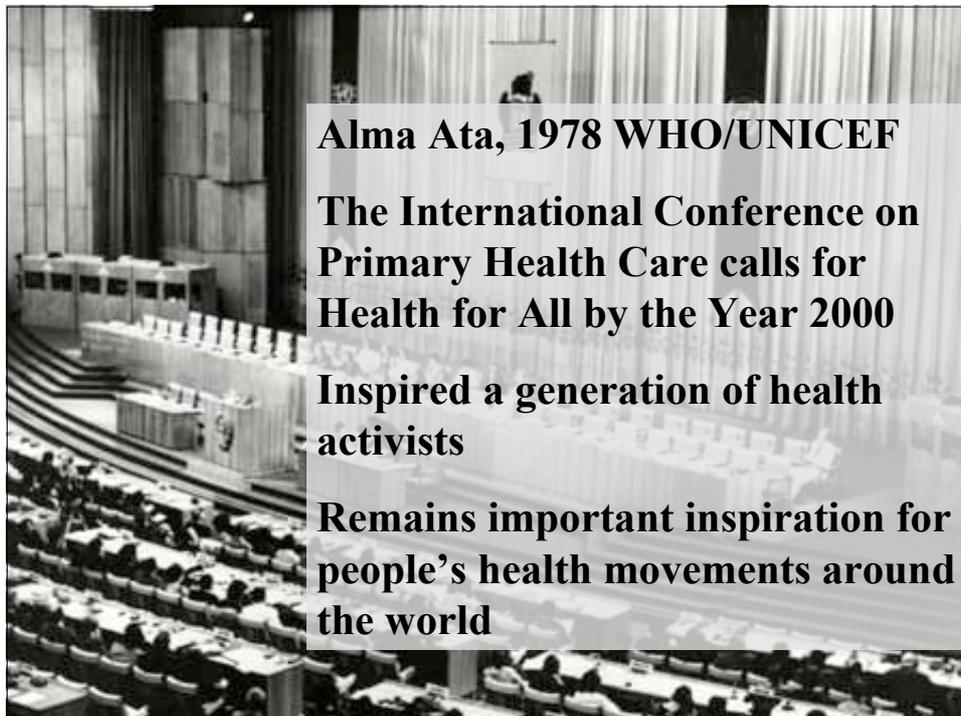
Cape Town, South Africa



Building local understanding that health is more than health services



Cross country solidarity – linking local campaigns



**Alma Ata, 1978 WHO/UNICEF**

**The International Conference on Primary Health Care calls for Health for All by the Year 2000**

**Inspired a generation of health activists**

**Remains important inspiration for people's health movements around the world**

## Global social movements offer inspiration.....

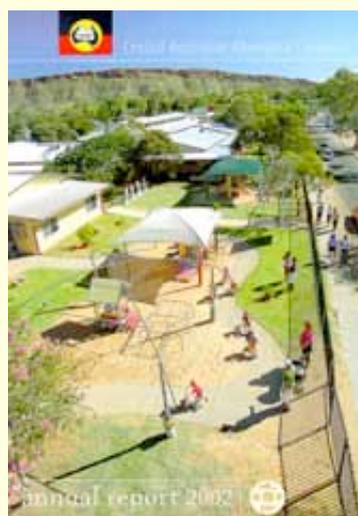


Dr. Halfdan Mahler, in Almaty, Sept 1998 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1978 Primary Health Care Alma Ata Conference

## Community controlled health services



**Central Australian Aboriginal Congress**



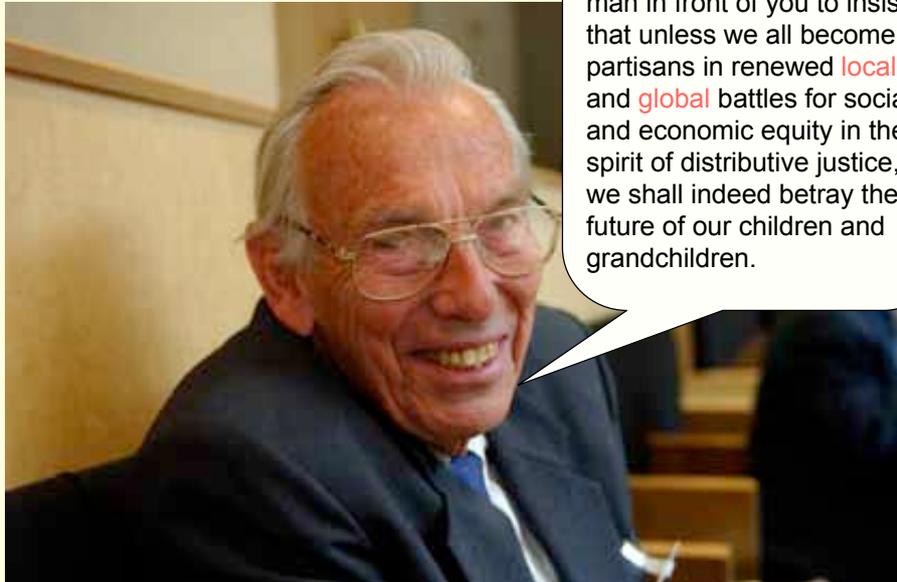
## Community health services – how they could be.....

- Community health centres with local management
- Multi-disciplinary – individual as well as community health
- Citizens rather than consumers
- Debating where we spend health & well-being dollar for best community health outcomes
- Ability to act on social and environmental causes of ill health
- Collective rather than initial solutions to local health issues
- Focus for local social action and advocacy
- Supported by public sector committed to empowerment and citizen's voice



**New ways of thinking  
an agenda for a  
sustainable healthy and  
convivial future...some  
ideas collectively we  
will have many more  
that need to be debated  
– many alternatives**

Dr. Halfdan Mahler, DG Emeritus  
addressing 61<sup>st</sup> World Health  
Assembly May 2008



So please, allow this old man in front of you to insist that unless we all become partisans in renewed **local** and **global** battles for social and economic equity in the spirit of distributive justice, we shall indeed betray the future of our children and grandchildren.

## Inequities, Poverty & Neo-liberalism – part of natural order?

*It is "not a preordained result of the forces of nature or the product of a curse of the deities. But the consequences of decisions which men and women take or refuse to take."*

Nelson Mandela quoted in Heywood and Altman, 2000, p.173



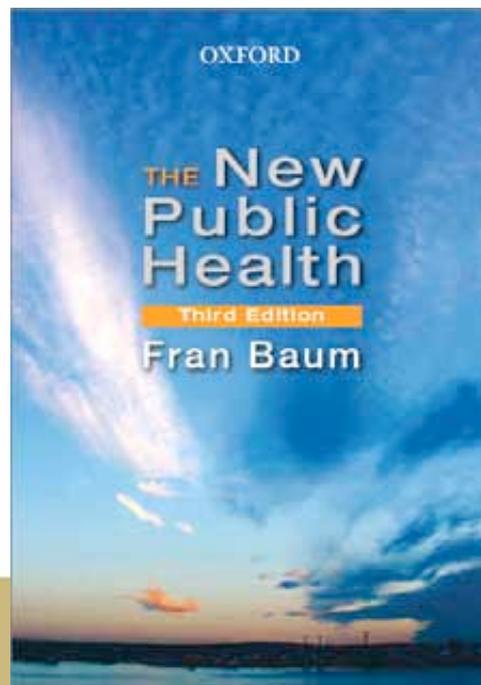
## New thinking for 21<sup>st</sup> century to create sustainable & convivial communities

- Interventionist state – control market and regulating threats to health and well being
- Global governance for human rights and public good
- Create conditions for local democracy and exercise of citizenship – public spaces to meet, debate, create futures, internet spaces which allow global citizens to interact , protection of rights of citizens to protest
- Support poor communities to develop skills and abilities with range of resources – part of broader inclusion strategy

**Thanks for  
listening**

[fran.baum@flinders.edu.au](mailto:fran.baum@flinders.edu.au)

If you want to read more  
about these ideas.....



# Communities in Control Conference 2008



ourcommunity.com.au



**CENTACARE**  
Catholic Family Services

## OUR PROUD SUPPORTERS:



Department of Planning  
and Community Development



Australian Government  
Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs



**Westpac**

