One of the objectives of the AHPA student portfolio this year was to ensure an AHPA presence on university campuses in SA. Creating such a presence was designed to raise the awareness of AHPA to students by showing them how AHPA can benefit students who are striving towards a career involving health promotion. It is felt by the student portfolio that as health promotion is a relatively young profession, there is consequently very little support or guidance provided for students who are intending to make ‘health promotion’ their career goal. Rather, there always seems to be career development opportunities on university campuses for students undertaking study in economics, science, engineering and law for example, thus excluding health science related disciplines. As such, it was the student portfolio’s plan to have an AHPA stand at the University’s (Flinders, Adelaide, UniSA) career days to advertise AHPA to students and show them one-on-one how AHPA proactively assists their student members (mentoring program, volunteer register, job vacancies).

To promote AHPA as a professional association who provides information regarding Health Promotion/Public Health and student career support, professional development, as well as networking opportunities.

All three universities were contacted via phone (April 08) to enquire about their career days. During this phone contact, it was established who would be the contact person we would liaise with.

Once a contact person was established communication was then done via email.

Adelaide University stated they do not have a health career day however, UniSA and Flinders did advise us of their ‘Health’ career days. Via email contact, it became promising that AHPA would be present at both Flinders and uniSA health career days.

Unfortunately in August 08 we were advised that UniSA no longer required AHPA’s presence. Therefore the Flinders University Health and Community Services Career Day on the 17th September 2008 became our career day in focus.

At the AHPA SA branch committee meeting on 11/9/08 the collection of AHPA materials was organised to be collected by Marissa on 16/9/08 from Eva Forte’s office. (AHPA banner, membership brochures etc. Marissa had organised with Claire to print off AHPA student membership info sheets).

After the completion of the Flinders Career Day, Leah and Laura dropped back left over AHPA materials and banner to Eva Forte’s office on the 17/9/08.
On the day we were really busy! All in all it was fantastic to see that our goal had become a reality and we received some great feedback. To be honest, the day went better than we thought.

At 2pm we had 31 student names and their corresponding email address recorded. These 31 students will receive a follow up email to see if they found AHPA information useful and if they are still intending on becoming members. In our delight, we got that busy that we couldn’t record the details of every student we spoke to! As such, we can suggest that we had at least face-to-face contact with over 50 students who were all very interested in who AHPA was. We gave out 42 student membership info sheets which were designed to advertise an AHPA student membership and how to become a member.

Feedback from students was very positive. Only one student we spoke to was already a member of AHPA. Most had never heard of AHPA. One student was very grateful of our stand in particular as she is contemplating whether to change her Health Science major to health promotion. She was still at the contemplating stage of choosing health promotion as a major because she felt that there wouldn’t be enough jobs in the field. In addition this her angst about finding a job she also had never really heard of health promotion as a profession and was worried that she would be studying something which isn’t recognised by industry professionals. She was indeed very motivated after attending our stand. She is now intending on becoming a student member as it was great for her to hear about how a student membership with AHPA is of benefit to a student in her position.

All in all, it was a very successful day. It felt fabulous and was very rewarding to promote AHPA to students (future workers) who required student support with a career in health promotion. Predominately our stand showed them how a student membership with AHPA is the way to go!

**Most evident questions asked by students?**
- Do you recruit?
- Are you a non-for profit organisation?
- How can this (AHPA) benefit me?
- What sorts of things does AHPA do?
- Is AHPA attached to the Government?
- How does AHPA receive funding?
- What are the jobs in health promotion?
- A lot of the time we actually had to explain what health promotion was and then try to relate it back to their degree (especially for psychology and behavioural science students).
- What does a career in health promotion mean?- This is where the story books were great!
- Can I be a health promoter (even if I’m studying nursing, social work, psychology etc.)

**Backgrounds of students who attended our stall**
1. Psychology
2. Behavioural Science
3. Social workers
4. Nursing
5. Health Science
6. Other (post grad- generally related to public health)