

Tuesday 17 May 2022

Dietitians Australia pays tribute to late Peter Williams – Dietitian Nutritionist OAM

Rarely do pioneers of the dietetics profession leave such a legacy as that of the late Peter Williams OAM, who passed at 71 years of age last week.

President of Dietitians Australia, Tara Diversi paid tribute to Peter who was highly published in the field of dietetics and nutrition, and a mentor to many.

“Peter was published 282 times, and listed 56 professional activities to his career,” Tara said.

“He truly has left his mark on the health and wellbeing of Australians and paved the way for dietitians into the future.”

It was Peter’s passion for working with people – and food – that led him to a career in dietetics where he emerged in food service at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He would later be approached by Kellogg Australia to take on the position of Director for Scientific and Consumer Affairs where Peter introduced folate to fortification in the cereal, as well as salt reduction.

Peter’s departure from Kellogg Australia in 2000 to take a position at the University of Wollongong coincided with his presidency of the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA), now known as Dietitians Australia.

“In the three years that Peter was President, he built an emphasis on evidence-based practice, and introduced measures to strengthen member connections,” Tara said.

“He was a tireless advocate for our organisation, and his work helped shape the landscape of dietetics in Australia.”

In 2010 Peter was made ‘Honorary Life Member’ of DAA, and in 2020 received the Order of Australia Medal for services to community health and medical education. This was also the year he published his memoir *‘My Divided Life,’* a fascinating insight into his personal and professional life.

“In reply to his Concluding Thoughts in the memoir, Peter certainly was a grateful and humble person, who lived an ethical life that helped others.”

Dietitians Australia offers its most sincere condolences to Peter’s husband, daughters, family and friends.

ENDS

For further information contact Dietitians Australia’s media team on 0409 661 920 or email media@dietitiansaustralia.org.au

Peter Williams professional activities

2014-2020 Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Wollongong

2013-2019 Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra

2013-2015 Member, FSANZ High Level Health Claims Committee

2013-2015 DAA Accreditation & Education Consultant

2011-2014 Member, TGA Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines

2011-2014 Fellow, Food Standards Australia New Zealand
2011-2020 Member, Ad Standards Community Panel
2011-2014 Member, Dietetic Credentialing Council
2011-2013 Member, Commonwealth working group on a National Food Policy
2011-2013 Member, Board of the International Life Science Institute (ILSI) Australia
2011-2013 Member, Scientific Review Panel, Grains and Legumes Nutrition Council Ltd
2009-2013 Member, International Advisory Board, Perspectives in Public Health
2009-2013 Member, Nestle Oceania Scientific Advisory Network Group
2009-2014 Member, Heart Foundation Food and Nutrition Advisory Committee
2008-2013 Member, DAA Scholarship and Awards Management Committee
2008-2009 Member, Obesity Working Group, National Preventative Health Taskforce
2006-2013 Book Review Editor, Nutrition and Dietetics
2006-2008 Committee Member, 6th International Conference of Culinary Arts & Sciences
2006-2008 Member, MLA Human Nutrition R&D Advisory Committee
2005-2011 Member of the Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand
2004-2006 Member, 24th Annual DAA Conference Scientific Program Sub-Committee
2004-2005 Member, FSANZ Standards Development Advisory Committee on Health Claims
2004-2005 Member, FSANZ Technical Expert Group on Nutrition and Health Claims
2003-2005 Chair, DAA Dietetics Standards and Accreditation Advisory Committee
2001-2002 Member, Policy Advisory Group on Nutrition, Health and Related Claims
2000-2008 Member, DAA Honours Advisory Committee
2000-2005 Member, Heart Foundation Food Information Program Steering Committee
2002-2003 Member, NH&MRC Working Group on Review of Recommended Dietary Intakes
2000-2003 President, Dietitians Association of Australia
2000-2003 President, Federation of Australian Nutrition Organisations
2000-2003 Member, NH&MRC Dietary Guidelines Review Working Party
2000-2002 Member, Eat Well NSW Consultative Committee
2000-2002 Member, the Go Grains Advisory Committee
1998-1999 Member, NH&MRC Working Party - Dietary Guidelines for Older Australians
1998-2000 Member, DAA Dietetics Skills Recognition Working Party
1997-1999 Member, AFGC Scientific and Technical Committee
1996. Australian DAA Delegate, International Congress of Dietetics, Manila
1996-1997 Chair, Planning Committee for the 17th National DAA Conference
1994-2001 Chairperson, DAA Food Standards Committee
1994-2002 Member, DAA Membership and Consumer Complaints Committee

1994. Member, National Food Authority Working Party on Nutrient Claims
1993-1999 DAA representative, NOOSR Panel in Dietetics
1993. Member, National Food Authority Working Party on Substitute Foods
1991-1992 Chairperson, NSW Branch of DAA
1990-1991 Member, ACA Food and Nutrition Policy Working Group
1989-1992 Member, Board of Studies, Master of Nutrition & Dietetics, Sydney University
1988. Member, NSW Department of Health Food Services Advisory Committee
1988-1989 Member, NSW Institute of Dietitians Training and Education Subcommittee
1986-1987 Member, NH&MRC Working Party on Nutrition Labelling Education
1985. Vice-Chairperson, NSW Branch of DAA
1984-1985 Member, NH&MRC Working Party on a Food Additive Numbering System
1983-1985 Member, Board of NSW Branch DAA
1983-1985 Chairperson, DAA Continuing Education Committee
1982-1983 Program Planner, 3rd National DAA Conference
1980-1981 Member, Council of the NSW Dietetic Association
1980 Treasurer, Nutrition Society of Australia (Sydney Branch)