Public Health Education
What is the indifference point?

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› What we say and what we do

› Rigour vs Usefulness – the indifference point

› TPPA – “Bud, its about money”
What we say

› Vision – What we do for others

› Mission – How we do it

› Values

› Survey of Web Home pages for all Australian Schools of Public Health + 11 International
What we say

› Is the SPH vision OR mission statement primarily concerned about self or what can be achieved for others?

› Explicit mention of the need to influence policy? A health systems approach to PH education?
What we do

Australia

International

Others
Self
Policy/Systems
Why the gap?

› Knowledge

› Values

› Decisions/Policy/Implementation/Evaluation

› Is there a deficit of context?

› What is the academic indifference point?
Figure 1 - Academic Rigour vs Usefulness
Rigour vs Usefulness

Figure 2 - Bend it like Leeder

Rigour

Usefulness

Academic status quo

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How do we bend it?

› We need transformative MPH graduates

› As educators we cannot go it alone. We need to extend our curriculum and teaching across faculties and disciplines

› Change the university-based incentives and rewards
Context and extension

› Professional practice placements

› Extend MPHs to include chronic disease prevention

› Make it global
Classroom in the Field 2014, The Philippines
Partnerships in Public Health are vital
A BBQ stopper amongst the investment cognoscenti

Vietnam – “This (TPPA) is going to create a big middle class in Vietnam. Ma and Pa may not like it but its going to happen. Bud, its about money“
The first law of politics – be there!

› The US-Australia Free Trade Agreement is a good example.

› Our colleagues in LAW were most vocal about the pharmaceuticals provision

› Public Health and Clinical Academics have upheld the PBAC process, including Independent reviews.
What can Public Health do?

› Partner with our colleagues who understand regulation and legislation

› Argue for Evidence-based policy

› Be there
› Without rigour you cannot be useful

› Need to extend ourselves, from knowledge through to values and ethics through to policy/decision making/implementation and evaluation

› A systems approach means that we cannot go it alone educationally
Summary

› Public Health workforce needs will demand this shift

› The global NCD threat will demand new ways of thinking about public health education