

Alana Officer

Unit Head, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing at World Health Organization

Geneva, , CH

Alana Officer coordinates the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) & oversees WHO's work on age-friendly environments.

Biography

Alana Officer is a native of New Zealand. She holds a diploma in Health Science (Podiatric Medicine) from the Institute of Technology in Sydney, Australia; a Master's degree in Applied Science & Exercise and Sports Science (research) from the University of Sydney, Australia; and a Master's degree in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom. Alana started her career as a clinician in Australia and England before holding a number of technical and managerial positions working on disability, health and development in West and Central Africa, Europe, South Asia, the Middle East and the Western Pacific. Alana joined WHO in 2006 and was the Coordinator for the Disability and Rehabilitation Team (DAR) within the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention from 2007 ? 2014 where she led the development of such landmark resources as the WHO global disability action plan 2014?2021: Better health for all people with disability (2014), The International Perspectives on Spinal Cord injury (2013), the World report on disability (2011) and the Guidelines on community-based rehabilitation (2010) amongst many others. She has earned a number of awards for her contribution to disability and rehabilitation and is a member of several editorial boards for scientific journals. Alana joined the Department of Ageing and Life Course in July 2014 to lead the development of the World Report on Ageing and Health, which was published in October 2015 and to support the development of the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health (GSAP). She was also responsible for the Organization's work on age-friendly environments including the Global Network on Age-friendly Cities and Communities and the development of a Global Campaign to Combat Ageism. In January 2020, Alana became the head of a new unit in WHO on Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing (DHA). In this role she coordinates, on behalf of WHO, the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing ? a global collaboration to improve the lives of older people, their families and communities - as well as the related knowledge Platform on ageing. Alana continues to oversee the Organization's work on age-friendly physical and social environments, including the Global Network on Age-friendly Cities and Communities and the Global Campaign to Combat Ageism.

Areas of Expertise

Disability and Rehabilitation, Public Health, Communications, Age-friendly Environments, Ageism, Exercise and Sports Science, Multisectoral Partnerships

Education

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Masters Public Health

University of Sydney
Masters Applied Science ? Exercise and Sports Science

Institute of Technology
Diploma Health Science (Podiatric Medicine)

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