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Maintaining The Momentum, Responding To Change: Psychologists For The Promotion Of World Peace 1984-2003.

Psychologists for the Promotion of World Peace (PPOWP) is an Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. It was established in 1984 at a time when the threat of nuclear war was very salient. Its members sought to use psychological skills and knowledge to increase understanding of the issues involved and to advocate for peace. With the end of the Cold War, many 'peace' groups disintegrated. This paper will explore the factors which contributed to PPOWP's continuing existence and vibrancy. These include its organisational base, a developing tradition of producing attractive marketable resources, a focus on both 'micro' and 'macro' aspects of peace, an openness to the changing world situation, and successful efforts to recruit younger psychologists. The paper will outline some of the many ways in which psychologists can work together to use their knowledge to promote peace.

Dr. Ann Sanson is an Associate professor in the psychology department at the University of Melbourne. She has a BA from the University of Western Australia and a PhD from La Trobe University. Her research interests include conflict and its resolution, as well as developmental psychopathology, in particular the development of externalising and internalising problems in childhood and adolescence and within-child and environmental influences on child development. Dr. Sanson is a member of multiple organisations including the Australasian Human Development Association, Psychologists for the Promotion of World Peace (formerly Psychologists for the Prevention of War), Committee for the Psychological Study of Peace and International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development.