



Public Health Forum Advisory Group Meeting

Deakin+ DHS Partnership

Friday 8th August 2008
DHS State Government Offices

Minutes

Co Chairs:

Professor Evelyne De Leeuw, Associate Dean (Development), Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences, Deakin University.

Mr John Hedditch (Manager of Public Health, DHS BSWR)

Present: Prof Evelyne De Leeuw, Mr John Hedditch, Mr Grant Hamilton, Mr Austin Paterson, Ms Karen Pritchard, Mr John Devereaux, Ms Sandy Austin, Dr Iain Butterworth, Mr Chris Loughnan, Ms Carol Micallef, Mr Tim Moore, Mr Matthew Ebdon, Ms Karen Valentine, Ms Kathleen Doole, Ms Kate Nelson

Apologies: Ms Irene McGinnigle, Ms Libby Mears, Ms Karen Oliver, Mr Tom Van Etten, Mr Adrian Schoo, Ms Rosie Rowe, Prof Anne Taket

1. Welcome and Introduction:

John Hedditch welcomed group members to the inaugural Public Health Forum advisory group meeting. John and Evelyn De Leeuw will alternate chairing of the meetings as they progress with the suggestion that further meetings could occur after a Public Health Forum.

2. Deakin +DHS Partnership Business Plan:

Dr Iain Butterworth welcomed and thanked attendees for their interest and participation in the Public Health Forum Advisory Group meeting. The recent launch of the Business Plan and Advisory groups offers exciting new partnership connections over a broad range of issues.

Iain provided a summary of the new Partnership Business Plan¹ He identified the specific partnership strategies and organizing action around four main advisory groups- Health and Well Being, Teaching and Workforce, Research and Evidence based practice, and Public Health Forums.



3. Public Health Forum terms of reference:

Sandy Austin provided an overview of the terms of reference and the aim of the Public Health Forum strategy to enhance the public's awareness of public health matters by promoting professional development and knowledge via public health forums. The aim is to present four forums to the community in the 2008- 2009 (July to June) calendar year. The advisory group has been convened to obtain the widest representative advice on forum topics, guest speakers and location of events.

The Term of Reference document outlines a possible range of topics for consideration. These are summarised as **Appendix 1**.

4. Summary of previous Health Forum topics:

Chris Loughnan tabled a list of forum topics covered by the partnership in the period between 2001 and 2007. These are summarised in **Appendix 2**.

The group reviewed and considered the Terms of Reference and recent forum topics confirming their continued relevance on the public health agenda. After a round table conversation a range of possible topics for the year ahead was developed to include:

- **Social Inclusion**
- **Climate Change with a Public Health perspective**
- **Continuity of care/ access to services**
- **Healthy ageing**
- **Physical activity/obesity/nutrition**
- **Primary prevention**
- **Economics and health**
- **Mental health**
- **Urban Development/ regeneration**
- **Health equity**
- **Indigenous health**

5. New Public Health Forum model:

After detailed discussion and review, the Advisory Group proposed developing a new model to present Public Health Forums in the South West Region. The model aims to present forums widely across the region and use a community-building approach to develop topics in response to local needs. Its focus would be to give local areas ownership and control over topics as well as follow up on issues arising from the forums.

The model proposes to fund PCPs to organize one forum each per year in collaboration with the Deakin DHS Partnership coordinators. Barwon may be funded for two forums, based upon its size. The Public Forum Advisory Group proposed that the Deakin+DHS partnership fund four forums over the 2008 to 2009 calendar year. It was recommended that the partnership provide funding @ \$3000 per forum to be distributed as below per calendar year.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Barwon Primary Care Partnership - | 2 forums (\$6000) |
| • Southern Grampians-Glenelg Primary Care Partnership - | 1 forum (\$3000) |
| • South west Primary Care Partnership - | 1 forum (\$3000) |



Partnership personnel indicated that they welcomed the co-badging of the forums with Primary Care Partnerships and provision of additional funding if available.

Advisory Group members outlined guiding principles for PCPs to use when deciding their topics, preferred speakers and moderators. These parameters include the following:

- A choice of topic which coincide with PCP priority health promotion topics and or Deakin and DHS Strategic objectives (see advisory group possible topics above)
- Dynamic and well-presented information delivered in an accessible and interesting format
- An interactive process which would include questions and answers taken from the audience
- The target audience would be both the general public, as well as a broad spectrum of professional attendance and intersectoral groups

The PCP and partnership staff would act in collaboration to present the forums. The partnership team has developed a simple set of **guidelines** outlining the funding model and a **Public Health Forum Funding and Support form** to administer funding. (See documents attached to email)

Benefits of new model:

The benefits of this new model are manifest and include:

- Enhanced local input and relevance of forums, more local control and ownership of the process. Topics covered initiated by the community and relevant to their particular needs.
- A multiplier effect of bringing local resources and expertise to bear
- Potential in longer term to allow more forums at greater frequency at coinciding times
- Empowering model for PCPs and local areas
- Consistent with brokering objectives of Deakin + DHS Business plan
- PCPs provide a local platform for follow up activity after forums

6. Next Steps from advisory group meeting recommendations:

- Deakin + DHS Partnership funds PCPs to organize Public Health Forums events over the 2008 to 2009 calendar year
- Deakin + DHS partnership team work with PCPs to deliver agreed forums for the current year

7. Next meeting date: Meeting once per year, to be confirmed by co chairs. Members will be advised prior to meetings by Chris Loughnan (Deakin + DHS Project Officer)



Appendix 1: Possible range of topics outlined in the Advisory Group Term of Reference.

- Health inequalities,
- Addressing disadvantage,
- Access and equity,
- Remote and rural health,
- Tobacco, alcohol and other drugs,
- Active and resilient communities,
- Mental health and wellbeing,
- Modifiable lifestyles and chronic illness,
- Environments for health
- Disability,
- Nutrition,
- Dental health,
- Physical activity,
- Injury prevention,
- Sexual and reproductive health,
- Early years,
- Women's, men's and family health,
- Healthy ageing,
- Environmental sustainability,
- Indigenous health
- Other population health issues.

Appendix 2: Summary of previous Health Forum topics:

2001:

Women and Addiction

Ms Helen Barnacle, Prof Margaret Hamilton

2002:

The Weighting game: How are we shaping up? Ms Thea O'Connor, Prof Boyd Swinburn

Family Violence: home grown terrorism and its consequences Ms Wendy Bunston, Ms Deborah Walsh

Men's Business in family relationships Mr Chris Mackey, Dr Don Edgar

2003:

Working with Men effectively Mr Chris Grace

Bone Health, A Weighty Issue Dr Shona Bass, Dr Robin Daly, Dr Julie Caley, Mr Peter Caley

Young Men on a Short Fuse (Portland) Mr Chris Grace

2004:

Word of Mouth: Effectiveness of Oral Health Promotion

Mr Mark Gussy, Ms Sandy Austin, Mr Paul Riordan

Everything happens for a Reason: Issues in perinatal depression

Prof Jeannette Milgrom, Ms Ingrid Ozols

Temper taming (Portland)

Ms Jan Mcleod, Ms Alison Lewis-Nicholson

Physical Activity and Nutrition

Dr Jan Garrard, Prof Boyd Swinburn

2005

Sexual Rehabilitation for people with a disability Dr Matthew Kwai-Sang Yau

2006

Thinking globally, Act locally. What can we do? Mr Tim Costello

Can Men Change

Prof Bob Pease, Mr Pete French

Responding to Partner Violence: Specific roles for general practice?

Prof Gene Feder

Families, the Food industry and the Media Ms Rosemary Stanton

2007

Being an Adolescent Today

Prof Susan Savage, Ms Louise Mathews, Dr Ann Chirside

Future Directions in Aboriginal Health Prof Ian Anderson

Beating the Stigma of Mental Illness Prof Patrick Corrigan

¹ <http://www.deakin.edu.au/dhs/publications.php>.