



Planning for Equity:

Health Impact Assessment and Other Equity Tools

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Introduction and Outline

- **Purpose:**

To introduce the HIA method and show how it has been utilised to support equity and engage non-health stakeholders in projects and policies that impact on physical activity

- **Outline:**

- What is HIA and where has it come from
- Applying HIA: *community participation*
- Applying HIA: *engaging non-health stakeholders*
- Resources to support HIA
- Other equity tools



What is Health Impact Assessment?

A ***combination*** of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be ***assessed and judged*** for its ***potential***, and ***often unanticipated, effects on the health*** of the population and the ***distribution*** of those effects within the population.

(Gothenburg Consensus definition, modified by Mahoney & Morgan 2001)



Keys words give clues

- Potential – prospective
- Often unanticipated – not picked up elsewhere
- Combination – no one approach
- Effects on health – as distinct from other effects
- Differential – equity dimension
- Assessed and judged – two steps



Developments in HIA – the trends...

- **Project-focused Impact Assessment (IA)**

Prediction of impacts of a proposed development on the environment with social and health IA as integral processes

Origins: EIA → SIA → EHIA →

- **Policy applications**

Strategic planning and policy making

Types: PIA + SEA + (P)HIA

- **Discrete applications**

IA types used for different purposes and driven by different needs in each context

Examples: EIA, SIA, HIA, IIA,
Economic IA, Human IA, ...



What is HIA being applied to?

Proposals that aim to:

- Modify physical environments
- Alter lifestyle choices
- Improve recreation & leisure opportunities
- Enhance training & employment prospects
- Reduce fear, anxiety & stress amongst specific groups
- Strengthen community control & foster community empowerment
- Improve access to public services
- Enhance relationships between residents & public sector agencies

(Hirschfield, 2001)



Links to equity and inequalities

- The goal of HIA is to ensure that policies do not diminish individual or population health.
- The distribution of health outcomes is a fundamental part of any HIA
- Some HIAs account for both within; others are specialist HIAs.
- HIA therefore has a crucial role in preventing inequalities.

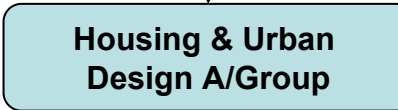
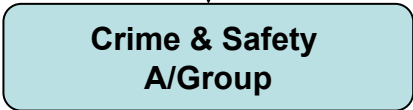
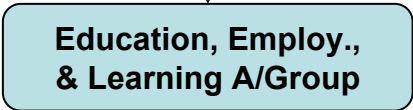
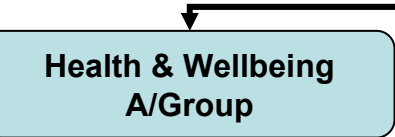
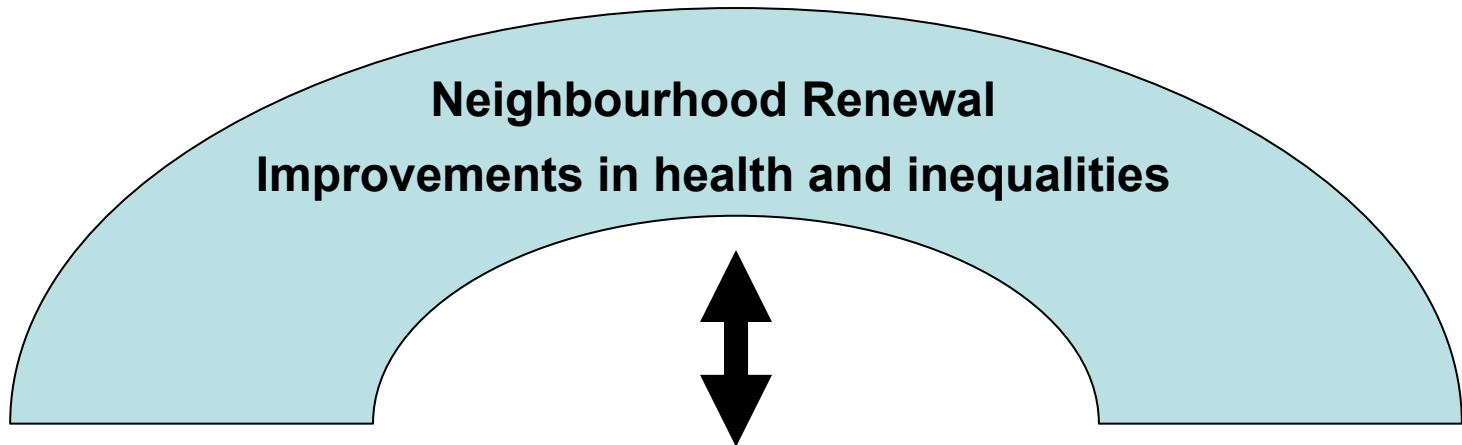


Applying HIA: Community Participation Case Study

HIA of local '*Neighbourhood Renewal*' projects in Victoria

1. A *crime and safety* strategy to improve people's sense of safety in their homes, streets and parks

Neighbourhood Renewal Projects in Victoria





Screening

- Attend monthly meetings
- Involvement in strategy development (observational)

Scoping

- Working with the groups to organise HIA

Identification and assessment of impacts

- Facilitation of HIA workshop
- Interviews
- Literature

Report drafting, refinement and dissemination

Evaluation component

1. A 'crime and safety' strategy to improve people's sense of safety in their homes, streets and parks

Helping people feel safe in their homes, streets and parks	Increasing local police presence & creating opportunities for young people to have positive contact with police	Reducing dangerous driving & improving pedestrian access along busy roads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of crime statistics with community • <u>Promotion of crime reduction rates</u> • <u>Communication newsletter and media reporting</u> • Prohibitions on drinking in public places • Increased signage and regular patrols • Rubbish collection (placement and collection) • <u>Crime prevention through environmental design</u> • Community funded locks and alarms • Seniors registered as priority with police • Safety house program • <u>Dob in offenders</u> • <u>24 hour community patrol</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase physical, tangible presence (patrols, community events) • Communication around calling process '000' vs 'local police station' • Community response to drinking and vagrancy around local shopping strip and inappropriate behaviour in public places (particularly after dark) • Securing 'police in schools' program in local state primary schools • Link police involvement to the positive role modelling strategies to be developed 	<p>(A) pedestrians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zebra crossing • Parking strategy to address illegal parking around schools & kinders (such as fining of offenders, parent education of danger associated with illegal parking) • Piloting 'one-way' roads around given school(s) <p>(B) speeding traffic (location)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police blitzing of key roads • Reflective lights, slowdown strips and directional signage • Speed alert mobile use <p>(C) speeding traffic (drivers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written letters to sport and recreational clubs re: local concerns • Support development of an information session for local sporting clubs promoting behaviour change



Screening

- Attend monthly meetings
- Involvement in strategy development

Scoping

- Working with the groups to organise HIA (childcare, where, who, when, how)

Identification and assessment of impacts

- Facilitation of HIA workshop
- Interviews
- Literature

Report drafting, refinement and dissemination

Evaluation component



The value of participation through HIA

- A systematic approach to:
 - Shift thinking about health away from health services and onto community level issues; and
 - Explore the knock-on effects of strategies and support thinking about inequalities
- Generation of skills among participants and supports the development of sustainable action
- Opportunities to be directly involved in the decision-making processes and empower participants to be agents of their own change
- Explicitly explore trade-offs - transparency
- Accountability ... educative



Applying HIA: *Engaging non-health stakeholders*

The value of HIA identified by non-health sectors:

- Establishes a framework for collaboration
- Builds on the positives of a project/proposal
- Avoids 'boomerangs'
- Responds to community concern about health
- Addresses the root causes of inequalities

**Table 6: Priority matrix for Shellharbour Foreshore Management Plan:
Initiatives with a potential to impact on physical activity**

LIKELIHOOD OF THE IMPACT	RELATIVE SIZE OF THE IMPACT		
	Large	Medium	Small
Definite	Cycle/walkway	Landscaping	
Probable			
Speculative		Parking	Community art Picnic facilities Seating Public toilet

Source: adapted from Risk Assessment Matrix (Shellharbour City Council)

- High priority
- Medium Priority
- Low Priority

**Table 7: Priority matrix for Shellharbour Foreshore Management Plan:
Initiatives with a potential to impact on social cohesion**

LIKELIHOOD OF THE IMPACT	RELATIVE SIZE OF THE IMPACT		
	Large	Medium	Small
Definite		Landscaping	
Probable	Community art	Cycle/walkway Picnic facilities	
Speculative		Parking Seating	Public toilet

Source: adapted from Risk Assessment Matrix (Shellharbour City Council)



Reiterating the value of HIA

- Put health on the agenda where it currently is not
- Encourage those who make decisions to take into account any unanticipated effects on health (either across the board or differentially or both)
- Provide a systematic means of including evidence into decision making
- Encourage ownership of decisions affecting health by people who might be affected (resulting in increased ownership and enhanced levels of inclusion)
- Enhance the positive impacts of any decisions and reduce (or eliminate) the negative impacts of any decision
- Identify and make transparent the trade-offs that are inevitable in the decision making process
- Builds on the existing skills of health & community workers



Department of Human Services and HIA

2006 capacity building program to target:

- DHS Regional Public Teams
- Local Government (via DHS Regions & Local Govt Partnerships)
- Neighbourhood Renewal

Information resources:

- Web-based information on how to do HIAs
- All completed HIAs

Other support:

- work with HIA steering committees, and as requested



Deakin University and HIA

The HIA Unit offers a range of **services** and **support**:

- Impact assessment advice
- Information services and resource
- Training programs tailored to the individual organisation's needs including:
 - Two-hour introductory sessions; and
 - Four- day short course.

Research

- Taking it to the streets: Health Impact Assessment as a health promoting activity to reduce inequalities within the community
- Positioning of Health Impact Assessment in Local Government in Victoria
- HIA and Social Exclusion: Exploring the links (Neighbourhood Renewal)
.....among others

Website: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/hbs/hia/>



Deakin University

Health Impact

Assessment Unit



Useful HIA Websites

Deakin University *HIA Unit* website - <http://www.deakin.edu.au/hbs/hia/>

HIA Connect - <http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/hia/>

– HIA E-News http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/hia/hia_e-news.htm

HIA Gateway – <http://www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/hiagateway>

World Health Organisation *HIA* website - <http://www.who.int/hia/en/>



Other Equity Tools and Useful Information

Equity Data

DHS Health Status:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/index.htm>

DVC Data Guide:

http://www.communitybuilding.vic.gov.au/graphic/local_data

Gendered Data Directory:

http://www.whv.org.au/health_policy/directory.html

Victorian Indicators Project:

www.communityindicators.net.au

Equity Tools

Equity Audits:

<http://www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=525872>

Equity Awareness



Thank You

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"If you think you are too small to make a difference try sleeping with a mosquito."

- Dalai Lama