

Health Promotion Priority Setting 2007-12 Update 2 September 2006

Welcome to the second email Health Promotion Priority Setting update.

The Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Services (RRHACS) Division, Department of Human Services and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) have been working together to develop the health promotion priorities for 2007-12. Other areas from across the Department including Neighbourhood Renewal, Office for Children and Disability have also been involved.

A statewide consultation was held between February and May 2006. It was a great opportunity to examine the proposed priorities and discuss future opportunities. Thanks to those who participated and provided feedback at the consultation forums and submitted written responses. Following the consultations, the feedback and responses were collated, analysed and further examination was undertaken.

The Minister for Health has recently signed off the seven priority issues. Over the next five years, it is proposed that agencies and organisations will align their local health promotion program and planning activity to the identified statewide priority issues.

The overarching aim of the health promotion priorities is to improve overall health and reduce health inequalities. To achieve this aim the seven priority issues are:

1. Promoting physical activity and active communities
2. Promoting accessible and nutritious food
3. Promoting mental health and wellbeing
4. Reducing tobacco-related harm
5. Reducing and minimising harm from alcohol and other drugs
6. Safe environments to prevent unintentional injury
7. Sexual and reproductive health

Neighbourhood Renewal sites were also confirmed as one of the priority settings for health promotion practice from 2007-12.

We are now working to develop future actions to support the health promotion priorities from a statewide level.

To support the seven priority issues, the following underpinning principles have been developed to guide health promotion and prevention policy and practice:

1. Addressing the broader determinants of health
2. Basing action on the best available data and evidence
3. Acting to reduce inequalities and injustice

4. Emphasising active consumer and community participation
5. Empowering individuals, communities and organisations through capacity building action
6. Ensuring an explicit consideration of diversity (including gender, culture, ethnicity, age, disability and sexual orientation)
7. Working in collaboration across sectors to ensure an integrated approach to action
8. Ensuring access for all to health promoting activities

A management group, comprising representatives from program areas across the Department and VicHealth has been established. The aim of the group is to strengthen the health promotion action across sectors in Victoria.

For each priority issue we will involve relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated that further information about implementation action will be released in 2007.

Additional work being progressed includes:

- Reviewing the language and/or description of some of the priority issues. It is proposed an online follow-up survey will be conducted throughout November.
- Consideration of a schematic framework for each of the priority issues.

We will continue to keep you informed through regular email updates. Your feedback is welcome. Please let us know if you do not want to be included on this email circulation list.

The final summary of the consultation results will soon be available from:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/role/index.htm#hpps>

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