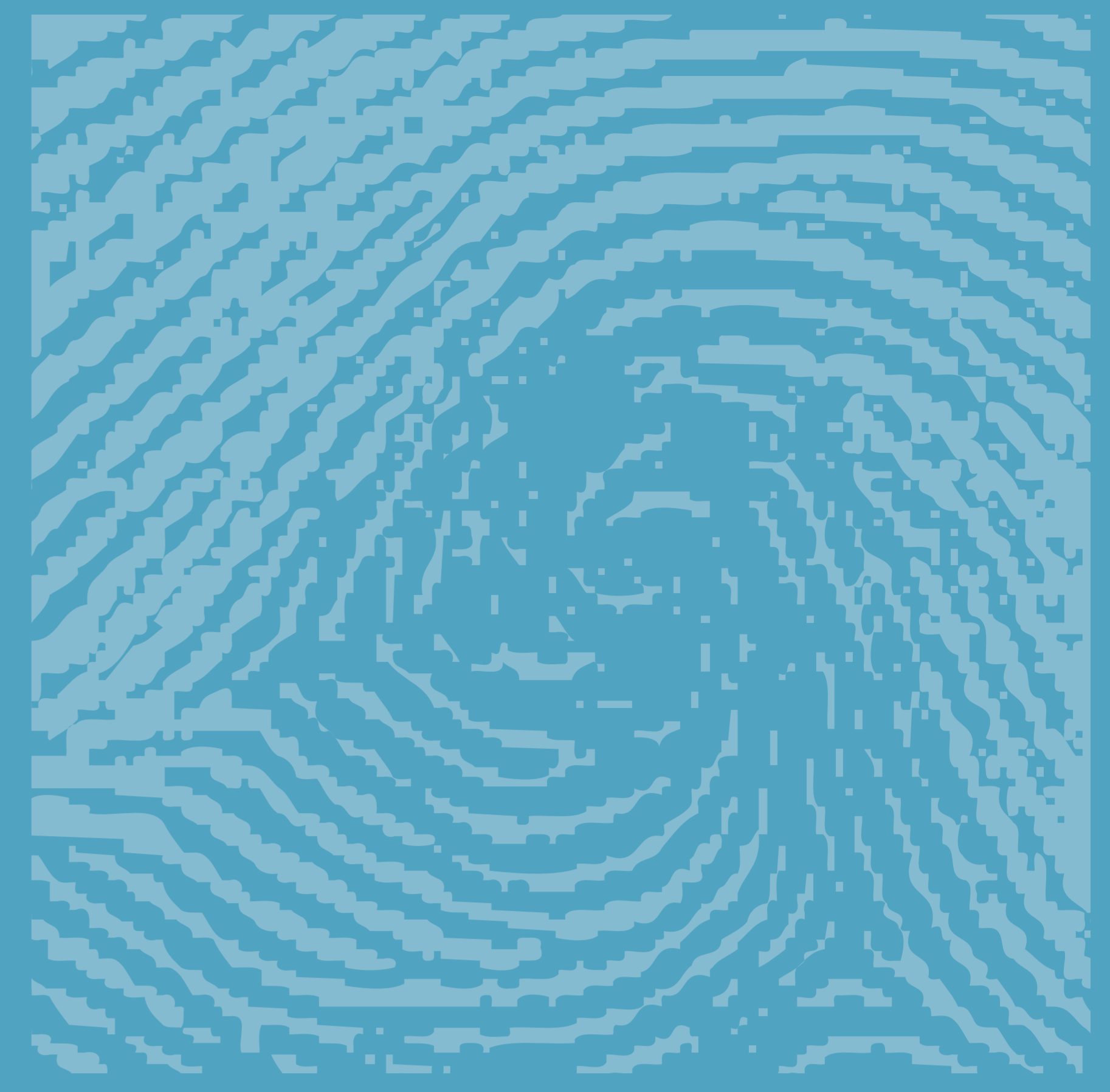


Evaluation support and partnership

Case study in municipal public health planning evaluation



Background

A partnership model of evaluation support and practice has been adopted for the Good Practice Projects funded to improve municipal public health planning using the *Environments for Health* framework.

Approach

The Department of Human Services, University of Melbourne and Good Practice Project officers developed the methodology in partnership.

The evaluation support element was incorporated into the program to:

- obtain a shared understanding of evaluation by all partners
- promote evaluation knowledge and skills
- encourage evaluation planning and implementation from the beginning
- improve the nature and quality of information provided by the projects to the overall evaluation

The evaluation support and practice involved:

- use of an evaluation planning tool by all projects
- two workshops
- site visits to each project
- three evaluation reports – throughout the term and on completion of the project to provide useful information to projects and others involved in Municipal Public Health Plans (MPHP)

Discussion

Projects addressed: **partnership development**, community engagement, **indicator development**, **integrated planning**, and responding to health issues. Good Practice Project activities, achievements, success factors, barriers, issues of sustainability, and resources developed for use by others are summarised in the third report.

Examples of lessons from indicator projects:

- clarify potential uses and misuses of indicators
- develop criteria for indicator selection at the start
- clarify purpose of consultation. For example, refine a list or develop a list of indicators
- all involved need background information on indicator development

For further information visit the [Public Health Local Government Partnerships web site](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/localgov/)
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/localgov/>

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Examples of influencing factors for projects involved in partnership development:

It was important for joint projects to gain an understanding of the differences in Council structure, stages of planning, and the level of internal integration, and to then agree on an appropriate process to accommodate these differences.

An important factor for successful joint Council partnerships is the presence of key advocates in senior positions within each Council to drive and promote the project.

Example of objectives of projects addressing integrated planning:

- to increase the understanding of staff, management and councillors of the social model of health
- to link the wide range of Council activities and functions to the four dimensions in the *Environments for Health* framework
- to increase co-operation and communication between Council departments or Councils and external organisations
- to increase the profile of the MPHP

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