

Update: DHS Good Practice Project

June 2002

During May and June, the Local Government Team have met on-site with project staff from the following MPHP Good Practice projects:

- Melbourne/Yarra
- Moonee Valley
- Moreland
- Cardinia/Casey
- Baw Baw Shire
- Yarra Ranges
- Glenelg, Corangamite, Moyne, Southern Grampians, and Warnambool
- Campaspe
- Bendigo
- Swan Hill, Gannawarra and Buloke Shires
- Towong/Indigo and Wodonga
- Shepparton
- Ballarat
- Brimbank

These meetings have been invaluable in terms of:

- Providing support and advice to project practitioners on matters such as project scope, methodology and project management
- Clarifying the ongoing supporting roles played by regional and head office
- Encouraging networking between projects
- Linking projects in with complementary initiatives, such as VicHealth's *Leading the Way* project (go to: <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/default.asp?artid=422&tmid=258&level=2>)
- Providing the Local Government team with a snapshot of current capacity of DHS regions to provide ongoing support to local government
- Giving the Local Government team an insight into workforce development issues requiring our attention, such as social research, evaluation, and participation.

The Local Government Team made a commitment to work closely with regional colleagues on this project, and to involve them in all aspects of the program. We have been inspired by the skills and enthusiasm we have witnessed among our DHS regional colleagues, and in the local government sector.

Theonie Tacticos and Helen Jordan from the Centre for Health Program Evaluation will be evaluating the Good Practice Program. Their evaluation framework includes a program of training and support for each individual project, and a review of the Good Practice Program overall.