

Stonnington City Council

Integrating public health and strategic planning

Project justification - why do the project?

This project was established to increase awareness and understanding about the whole of council role in public health planning and to raise the profile of public health up to the strategic planning level.

Through training and information (Leading the Way package), the health team worked across council areas to increase people's overall understanding of public health planning, the social model of health and integrated health promotion. By increasing understanding, the aim is to increase support and commitment, embedding public health and strategic planning into the business of local government.

Methodology - how we did it

Leading the Way training sessions were delivered to senior management and coordinators, as well as to an existing Strategic Planners Group. A reference group was formed with meetings held bi-monthly to guide the project and provide insight into the development of new integrated public health planning structures and processes.

Partners - who was involved?

Because this project was internally focused, all partners were council officers, coordinators and managers. The Public Health team at the regional office of the Department of Human Services provided support and advice regularly.

Outcomes - what changes occurred as a result of the project?

- A diverse group of staff from different organisational levels have received Leading the Way training as a result of participating in this project.
- As result of increased awareness and renewed support for public health planning in council, an internal cross-program reference group was formed.

Where to now?

The council will continue to expose more staff and managers to the social model of health and to increase workforce capacity to undertake integrated public health planning. A new Municipal Public Health Plan will also be developed.

While the absence of key public health staff within this portfolio is limiting progress, recruitment of a new staff member is currently taking place.

Contact

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