HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACROSS AUSTRALIA 2008

Each Australian State and Territory as well as the Australian Federal Government has played a role in the development of health impact assessment (HIA) over the past 15 years. The process of development has been largely consistent across the country.

The extent to which these individual consensus guides HIA practice varies between jurisdictions, as HIA is used as a tool, project, program, plan and policy across Australia.

This poster has been developed in collaboration with HIA practitioners from each Australian State and Territory to ensure that HIA is being effectively used in each state, highlighting the diversity of current Australian HIA practice.

HIA IN AUSTRALIA

HIA within Western Australia

Western Australia

Health Impact Assessment: Theories and Practice

Theories and practice of health impact assessment (HIA) are explored and illustrated with examples and case studies. The focus is on the process and techniques used in HIA, particularly in relation to health equity and social justice. The poster includes:

- A discussion of the ethical and political dimensions of HIA.
- An overview of the key steps in conducting an HIA.
- Case studies of successful HIA projects in Western Australia.

HIA in Victoria

HIA in Victoria - Progress Thus Far

Since 2002, Victoria has considered the strategic use of HIA as a tool for supporting policy planning and decisions making by governments at all levels. The poster includes:

- An overview of the Victorian Health Impact Assessment Policy.
- Case studies of successful HIA projects in Victoria.

More information on HIA in Australia can be found at: [http://deci.otio.co/hia/Australiana](http://deci.otio.co/hia/Australiana)

HIA IN QUEENSLAND

HIA in Queensland

The Health of Queenslanders is coming under increasing pressure due to increases in population growth, urbanisation, environmental changes and economic growth and development. This poster will highlight the role of health impact assessment in helping to ensure the protection and promotion of public health and well-being.

Examples of projects and plans that have been identified as benefitting from the application of HIA within Queensland include:

- Building capacity for effective HIA.
- Improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

HIA IN NEW SOUTH WALES

HIA in New South Wales

Health Impact Assessment Project

Project objective

The NSW HIA Project hopes to build the capacity of the health profession to undertake rigorous HIA in NSW. The project will focus on developing a framework for implementing HIA, which will be tested in pilot projects across different sectors.

More information on HIA in New South Wales can be found at: [http://www.hia.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hia.nsw.gov.au)

HIA IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HIA and the EPA Process

The use of Health Impact Assessment in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is also addressed. The ACT does not currently have a legislative requirement for HIA to be part of the assessment process, although some progress has been made in this area.

Examples of HIA completed

- Planning for a new hospital in the ACT.


HIA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HIA in South Australia

The role of HIA in South Australia is also discussed. The state is developing a new HIA framework to support the implementation of the state's strategic health plans.

More information on HIA in South Australia can be found at: [http://www.hia.sa.gov.au](http://www.hia.sa.gov.au)

HIA IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

HIA in the Northern Territory

The Health Impact Assessment in the Northern Territory is also addressed. The Northern Territory, like other parts of Australia, is facing significant challenges in relation to health and wellbeing, particularly in remote areas.

More information on HIA in the Northern Territory can be found at: [http://www.hia.nt.gov.au](http://www.hia.nt.gov.au)

HIA IN TASMANIA

HIA in Tasmania

The State of HIA in Tasmania

Tasmania was a leader in legislating for HIA and took substantial steps to implement it. The state has since moved away from legislative requirements and is now focusing on developing HIA frameworks and capacity-building initiatives.

More information on HIA in Tasmania can be found at: [http://www.hia.tas.gov.au](http://www.hia.tas.gov.au)

Partnerships

HIA has proven to be a positive vehicle for establishing good relationships between government agencies. Partnerships have been forged between the Department of Health, the Premier and Cabinet, and other departments and agencies to co-develop the HIA framework and ensure its implementation.