

Partnerships

Adapting Health Impact Assessment for local government

Case study

- Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of Draft Nelson City Council Gambling Policy *emotions*
-- excitement
- Partnership between Nelson City Council staff and NMDHB Public Health Service staff

What lies beneath all this:

"The good health and wellbeing of the population is largely a product of the settings in which people live, work and play"

Background

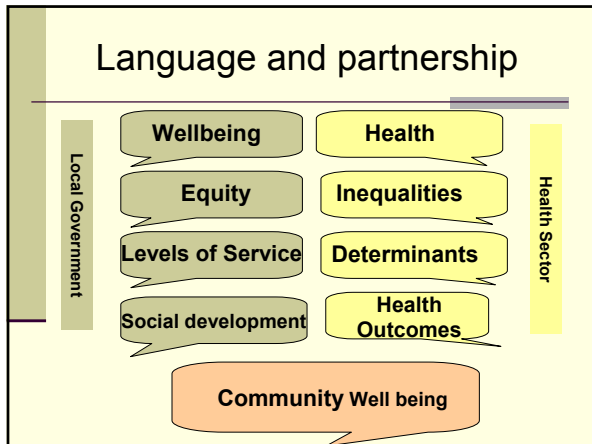


What we did

- DHB and NCC \$\$\$ and staff time 300hrs+ *emotions*
- Co-funded international expert *-- confident*
- Re-framed **Health** Impact Assessment as **Social** Impact Assessment emphasising **COMMUNITY WELLBEING** as a shared goal *-- stressed*

SIA...HIA in drag!





- ### Our SIA process
- Screening *emotions*
 - Scoping *--excited*
 - Appraisal workshop *-- stressed*
 - Report – recommendations *--frustrated*
 - Presentation of report to Council Committee
 - Success - some recommendations included in policy

- ### Challenges for DHB staff
- Time short, and over Christmas *emotions*
 - Dropped other important work *-- committed*
 - Reactive rather than proactive *-- stressed*
 - First time, lots to learn
 - Confusion over lead agency

The good things

- ALL participants said they'd take part again *emotions*
--- elation
- Great communication amongst stake holders
- More robust, factually-based and therefore better decisions
- Reduced political risk
- Positive feedback, established as a credible process and method
- Successful partnership
- HIA and SIA have many benefits, especially for local government

Some benefits of SIA and HIA

- Best practice for policy making and partnerships
- Neutral evidence base and formal process
- Strengthens relationships and plugs policy gaps between agencies
- Reduces risk by identifying unintended consequences – 'fresh eyes'
- Benefits outweigh cost (UK research)

Lessons

- **Time** – *emotions*
lead-in, preparation and delivery
- **Process** -
Broader representation, use briefed, trained facilitators
- **Councillors** -
Earlier involvement, training, brief committee chairperson
- **Report** -
Establish ownership, differentiate from 'submission', allow for responses, clarify process *-- frustration*

The future

- Everyone would use SIA again *emotions*
- Social Wellbeing Policy review...
- HIA/SIA in ascendancy- DHB and central government support *-- optimistic*
- Examples from around NZ
- Shared position model - CHCH
- More experience and capacity
- Training and resources

CONCLUSIONS

- HIA/SIA can work well for local government to enhance robust policy development
- Do the groundwork, 'prepare the ears', and translate into partners' common language
- Health/wellbeing *is* everyone's business, including councils
- Just go for it - big or small – there is plenty of support and experience
- How well do you know your DHB staff?

"the door to greater use of HIA is now ready to open"

Partnerships are the key...

Jacqui Irwin-Lawless, Nelson City
Council & Barbara Graves, Nelson -
Presentation to 2007 Community Plan
Conference, September 2007

More information

- www.phac.health.govt.nz
- www.quigleyandwatts.co.nz
- "An idea whose time has come" Feb 2007
Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)
- "Whanau Ora Health Impact Assessment"
2007 Ministry of Health
- "A Guide to Health Impact Assessment: a
policy tool for NZ" 2005 PHAC
