



Southern SHIA Hype

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Social Health Impact Assessment (SHIA) in local government forum

This forum is to be held on the 18 April 2007 and will provide planners from diverse sectors within local government with an opportunity to further explore the concept of HIA and its practical application. Following on from the two-day training held at Fountain Gate in late 2006, this third day will be facilitated by the SHIA@Monash team as a component of the Planning for Social Wellbeing: Using Social Health Impact Assessment in Local Government initiative. This is an opportunity for representatives from local government throughout the Southern Metropolitan Region to come together and explore the potential for HIA to be used in their own organisations and build upon existing skills to do so.

Day 3 is designed to be practical and will be complemented by a brief overview of what HIA is and first hand accounts of HIA in practice. Participants will have the opportunity to practically engage with three stages of the HIA process using case studies of relevance to their organisations. Pre-reading for the day will be provided. These readings are important as they set the foundation for the conduct of the day and will enable participants to get the most out of the forum.

The forum will take place on the 18 April 2007 at the Southern Golf Club (Lower Dandenong Rd, Keysborough). Registration is at 9:30am and the forum will commence at 10 am and finish at 4 pm.

Please contact *Therese.James@dhs.vic.gov.au* at the DHS, Southern Metropolitan Region, to register your attendance at this forum.

SHIA@Monash: who are we?

The Department of Health Science's focus on equity, community engagement and the social determinants of health is consistent with principles of Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Within the department, our staff possess a diverse skill set, with our strengths in health promotion and social health, inequalities and equity as well as bioscience and environmental health.

In light of this, we at Monash have identified ourselves as a Social Health Impact Assessment (SHIA) team which reflects our diverse skills and expertise. Our approach is consistent with good practice in HIA and the SHIA@Monash team has particular expertise in practice and capacity building for HIA.

SHIA demonstration project update

Since being selected as the demonstration sites for the SHIA capacity building project, the City of Greater Dandenong and Frankston City Council have been working with the SHIA@Monash team and the DHS, Southern Metropolitan Region (SMR). In January 2007, our first planning meeting was held which was followed by our first steering group meeting for the initiative in February. Both meetings provided a great opportunity to understand the aims and objectives of the project and plan for future components of the project.

Throughout February and March, Frankston City Council and the City of Greater Dandenong have worked hard at developing the foundations on which to move forward with SHIA. The team at Monash have been engaged by the councils in planning meetings for undertaking SHIA. The councils are working in preparation for the screening stage of their SHIA. Frankston City Council will continue to focus on a project that falls within the remit of their Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) and the focus for the SHIA within City of Greater Dandenong is on the equitable use of Hemmings Park.

Christine Burrows from the Frankston City Council and Janet Keily from the City of Greater Dandenong are the Social Planners who are leading these SHIA projects in their respective councils. No doubt they will have insights to share as to the facilitators and barriers of progressing SHIA in local government. Those attending the Social Health Impact Assessment (SHIA) in local government forum will have an opportunity to hear some of their early reflections.



Newsletter distribution

Southern SHIA Hype will continue to be distributed on a quarterly basis for the duration of this project. This newsletter is an avenue for you to share your experiences in HIA. If you have a story to tell please email it to hia-helpdesk@med.monash.edu.au.

Farewell and best wishes to Debbie Stuart

On behalf of the SHIA@ Monash team and the local councils involved in this project we would like to say thank you to Debbie Stuart for all her hard work in leading this initiative as the Manager of Public Health in the SMR. Debbie together with Narelle Algie, has been instrumental in the development phase of this initiative. Debbie was seconded to this position and has recently accepted another secondment and will be moving to disability services. Narelle and Phil Dalling (in the interim) will continue to support this project and the momentum it has gained since its inception.

What's on in HIA 2007: news and upcoming events

8th International HIA Conference

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland is hosting the conference which will take place in Dublin Castle, Ireland, on 16–17 October 2007, with pre-conference workshops on 15 October. All conference information on registration and abstract submission is now available at www.publichealth.ie/hia. Enquiries should be directed to: HIA2007@publichealth.ie

HIA 2007 conference

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is hosting the South East Asian and Oceania Regional Health Impact Assessment Conference in Sydney, Australia, on 7–9 November 2007. For more information visit www.hia2007.com.

New Zealand HIA policy resource

The Public Health Advisory Committee has launched a publication to assist government to examine policies for their potential health impacts. Available online at: www.nhc.govt.nz/phac/publications/an-idea-whose-time-has-come.pdf

Recent HIA publications

Lee, K, Ingram, A, Lock, K and McInnes, C (2007) Bridging health and foreign policy: the role of assessment, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, vol 85, no 3 pp 207–211.

Available at www.who.int/entity/bulletin/volumes/85/3/06-036962.pdf

Scott-Samuel, A and O'Keefe, E (2007) Health impact assessment, human rights and global public policy: a critical appraisal, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, vol 85, no 3, pp 212–217.

Available at www.who.int/entity/bulletin/volumes/85/3/06-037069.pdf

The new SHIA@Monash web page

As advocates for HIA, healthy public policy and equity the Department of Health Science are developing a Social Health Impact Assessment (SHIA) web page. The intention for this webpage is to provide HIA information and resource support for professionals from a diverse range of sectors and the community.

The web page is in its early stages of development and sits within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences website; it can be viewed by visiting www.med.monash.edu.au/healthsci/shia@monash.html. The website will be progressively updated and improved and important updates to this site will be reported on in *Southern SHIA Hype*. SHIA@ Monash team welcomes any suggestions as to the types of features you would find useful in supporting your HIA efforts. Please contact hia-helpdesk@med.monash.edu.au.