

NSW HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROJECT

E-News

Phase 3 of the NSW HIA Project 2005-2007

The Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE) was successful in winning the tender to manage Phase 3 of the NSW Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Project, 2005-2007. Phase 3 will build on Phases 1 and 2 with a view to:

integrating HIA into the NSW health system as a tool to improve internal planning and decision-making, and as a way to engage external partners on initiatives which influence health outcomes.

Specifically, Phase 3 will be about:

- Leading and facilitating opportunities for debate and learning about HIA that can add value to the health system;

- Embedding the capacity of the health system to undertake HIA;
- Identifying and fostering key stakeholders within the health system to provide leadership and to embed HIA into current planning and decision making processes;
- Developing and maintaining up to date and relevant resources to support the impact and sustainability of the NSW HIA Project; and
- Facilitating intersectoral collaboration with external partners regarding HIA.

Phase 3 will build on the 'learning by doing' approach developed in Phase 2 where five sites were established

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by Blythe O'Hara &
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Become A Developmental Site! Call for 2005 Developmental HIA Sites

As part of Phase 3 up to 16 further developmental HIA sites will be established. The developmental sites will receive training and support to undertake HIAs on health-related proposals.

Submissions for the 2005-2006 round of developmental sites are now being sought. A call for submissions will be going out to NSW Area Health Service Chief Executives and Branch and Centre Directors within the NSW Department of Health.

If you'd like to find out more about being a developmental site please contact the CHETRE HIA Project team on (02) 9385 0420. Take a look at the HIA Connect website to find out more about what's involved in being a developmental site:
<http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/hia>



The 2004 Developmental Sites

**Submissions for 2005-6
Developmental Sites Close
Friday 10th of June**

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UK HIA Conference
6th United Kingdom &
Ireland Health Impact
Assessment
Conference

**The People's Health
Movement NSW**
Forum held in March

New Resources
Guidelines and Manuals
on HIA

Upcoming HIA Events:

1. 2005 Developmental Sites
2. Managers Forum
3. HIA Colloquium
4. Special Edition of the NSW Public Health Bulletin

For more information on these activities please contact the project team.

to undertake HIA in NSW. We are hoping to establish up to 16 more HIA sites over the three-year project (8 in 2005/2006 and 8 in 2006/2007).

Other activities include:

- development a one day workshop for senior managers (to be held twice a year);
- development of a Masters level unit on HIA (to be piloted over two years);
- further development of the five-day training program for the

developmental HIA sites and other stakeholders (eg. local government);

- ongoing development of resources as part of the training program;
- a special edition of the NSW Public Health Bulletin on HIA;
- a manual on HIA in NSW; and
- a colloquium on HIA in NSW to be held in late 2005.

NSW HIA E-News

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CHE TRE is supported in this project by NSW Health. Views expressed here are not necessarily the views of NSW Health.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HIA Project Team at the Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation (CHE TRE).

What's New?

Upcoming Events

2nd People's Health Assembly
Cuenca, Equador 18-23 July

Public Health Association of Australia

Perth, Australia 25-28 September

Articles

1. Veerman JL, Barendregt JJ and Mackenbach JP. *Quantitative Health Impact Assessment: Current practice and future directions*, Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, 59(8), p 361-370, 2005.
2. Mindell J and Boltong A. *Supporting Health Impact Assessment in Practice*, Public Health, 119(4), p 246-252, 2005.



Past editions of the HIA E-News can be found online at:
<http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/hia>

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3. Lock K and McKee M. *Health impact assessment: assessing opportunities and barriers to intersectoral health improvement in an expanded European Union*, Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, 59(5), p 356-360, 2005.
4. Cole BL, Shimkhada R, Fielding JE, Kominski G and Morgenstern H. *Methodologies for Realizing the Potential of Health Impact Assessment*, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 28(4), p 382-389, 2005.

**More New Resources
on Page 6**

UK HIA Conference

Sixth UK & Ireland HIA Conference

The sixth United Kingdom and Ireland Health Impact Assessment Conference was held in Birmingham in October last year. A wide range of HIA-related topics were covered, ranging from the quantification of environmental health risks to HIA and global public policy. The

presenters were drawn from the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States and Australia. Some of the conference highlights are described in the following pages.

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The 6th UK and
Ireland HIA
Conference was held
in Birmingham in
October last year.

HIA of the King's Cross Redevelopment in London

by Sarah Simpson, CHETRE (sarah.simpson@unsw.edu.au)

Erica Ison gave a whirlwind tour on engaging with the planning process through the King's Cross Health Impact Assessment. The assessment was of the redevelopment of the area as a result of six major development projects: four relating to transport infrastructure; and two high-density mixed use developments. The redevelopment is on the boundary of two of the most deprived boroughs in London, for example about half the households in the area have an income of less than £200 a week. Other issues include:

- a lack of access to green and open spaces in the area;
- an acute need for housing;
- poor access to primary healthcare; and
- high numbers of people who are refugees, homeless or asylum seekers.

Up to 23,000 people who live there will be immediately affected by the redevelopment including disruption in their access to existing services and noise from construction work. The area has a history of redevelopment occurring without community engagement.



Model showing the redevelopment of the King's Cross area of London and the new terminal for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Photo: Andrew Dunn 2004

The assessors have learnt much about the myriad of planning regulations and the different authorities involved. For me it reinforced the value of engaging with the planners early on: this is increasingly important in NSW where the Area Health Services in Greater Western Sydney have been working closely with relevant stakeholders to plan for the potential health impacts of proposed urban redevelopments. Erica's key messages included:

- public health needs to get familiar with planning processes and engage with planners;
- be prepared and take public health to planners – don't wait for them to come to you; and
- work in a solution focused way – what can health offer other agencies including planners?

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link's London terminus is being built at King's Cross Station. A HIA was undertaken on the proposal.

Shell is part of the Sakhalin Energy Consortium who are developing a major oil and gas project off the Pacific Coast of Russia, north of Japan.



“Can HIA support real community engagement?”

UK HIA Conference Sixth UK & Ireland HIA Conference

Shell's Use of HIA Martin Birley

Martin Birley gave an overview of Shell's efforts to use HIA and to build capacity for HIA within the company. Martin explained how Shell has strategically sought to look at the health impacts of their major developments “outside the fence”.



Photo: Sakhalin Energy

Indigenous People of Sakhalin Island

He discussed the example of Sakhalin Island, where Shell has entered into a partnership with a number of other companies to create a major oil and gas pipeline from the north of the island to a new shipping port in the south. One of the major potential health concerns associated with the project was the potential for the spread of HIV/AIDS from the construction workforce to the local Sakhalin community. Shell has worked with the local community in an attempt to mitigate these and other potentially negative impacts.

Martin's presentation helped to highlight some of the ways in which the private sector can employ HIA and how it can relate to broader corporate-social responsibility (CSA).

HIA & Community Engagement Jennie Popay

Jennie Popay, Institute for Health Research, University of Lancaster livened up the afternoon plenary with a challenge to us all: can HIA support real community engagement?

Health impact assessment is caught between techno-scientific processes and the ideal of democratic renewal. The premise is that these two approaches may be incompatible due to issues such as the scientisation of decision-making which means the questions that are not seen as conducive to scientific inquiry are not asked and the community are excluded.



Photo: Ben Harris-Roxas

Participants at the Conference

Another issue is that HIA is an evidence driven movement but evidence is a contested concept. Finally, community capacity poses a problem because people will only engage if the issue is important and relevant enough and secondly if they're confident that there is scope for things will change.

Jennie's position was that the techno-scientific approaches to HIA are unlikely to be compatible with democratic renewal and therefore remain a central paradox for HIA. Much debate was had afterwards!

Conference Presentations

Available on the Web

<http://pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/hiaru/news.htm>

UK HIA Conference Sixth UK & Ireland HIA Conference

Resource for Reviewing Evidence

Jenny Mindell

The London Health Observatory was commissioned to develop a resource for reviewing evidence for use in HIA and held a workshop about the resource at the conference.

The draft resource is for those who commission literature reviews as part of a HIA and those undertaking HIA. It can be used to frame the questions, the scope, inclusion and exclusion criteria and expected outcomes of a literature review.

The resource can also assist commissioners and practitioners in appraising literature reviews. For example, if you were doing a HIA on a proposal to change public transport arrangements, the resource would assist you in appraising literature reviews

undertaken for HIAs on similar topics.

The resource has since been further refined and sent to a range of people, including the NSW HIA project and onto members of the 2004 developmental HIA sites for feedback. We also plan to use the final resource with future developmental HIA sites (see cover story).



Photo: Ben Harris-Roxas

Participants at the Conference

The People's Health Movement New South Wales Forum 21st March 2005

A launch and planning workshop for the NSW Chapter of People's Health Movement Australia was held on 21 March 2005 and Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW gave the inaugural address. People from varying backgrounds, including community health representatives, public health, primary care practitioners and academics participated in the workshop.

Internationally the Movement was formed after the first People's Health Assembly in December 2000 and is a network of global and national organizations committed to giving voice to the people.

The visit of a delegation from the international Movement to Australia in 2004 led to the establishment of the Victorian and NSW chapters and more information about Australia is at http://users.bigpond.net.au/sanguileggi/PHM/PHM_Oz.htm.

Please contact Ms Husna Razee, Project Coordinator, at h.razee@student.unsw.edu.au to find out more about the NSW Chapter and join us!



Photo: NSW PHM

Aunty Ali Golding welcoming workshop participants to country

More information about the Movement, the first Assembly and the People's Charter for Health can be found at <http://phmovement.org>.

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A resource has been developed by the London Health Observatory to help those commissioning and undertaking literature reviews for HIAs.

The NSW Chapter of the People's Health Movement was launched on the 21st of March 2005.

The EFHIA Framework provides structured guidance on incorporating equity at each stage of a HIA.

Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities provides information on the concept, process and use of HIA with a health inequalities focus.

The Self-Assessment Tool for Local Authorities helps councils assess local health inequalities.

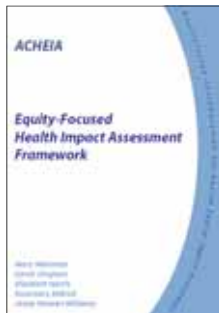
The EPHIA guidelines provide clear and concise information on using HIA applying it to policies.

New Resources

In the months since the last issue of the E-News a number of HIA guides and manuals have been released.

Equity Focused Health Impact Assessment Framework

A guide on how to systematically incorporate equity considerations in health impact assessment was released in 2004. The framework for equity focused Health Impact Assessment (EFHIA) was developed by a consortium consisting of the Newcastle Institute of Public Health, the Deakin University HIA Unit and CHETRE, UNSW.



EFHIA Framework

The framework provides practical guidance on how to address equity systematically in HIA.

http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/files/EFHIA_Framework.pdf

Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities A Practical Guide to HIA

The Welsh HIA Support Unit has developed a guide on HIA, focusing on the HIA concept, process and utility. The guide has a focus on addressing health inequalities.



Photo: Wales HASU

Jane Hutt, Welsh Minister for Health & Social Services and Gareth Williams, Director HIA Support Unit, launching the guide

<http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/health-impact/improving-health-e.pdf>

Promoting Healthier Communities & Narrowing Health Inequalities

A Self-Assessment Tool for Local Authorities

The UK Health Development Agency issued a self assessment tool for local councils in December 2004. This instrument aims to help councils evaluate whether there are gaps in their capacity to tackle local health inequalities.



Self-Assessment Tool

<http://www.hda-online.org.uk/Documents/selfassess.pdf>

European Policy Health Impact Assessment

Guidelines on policy health impact assessment have been released by the European Commission. The guidelines, developed by a range of experts and practitioners from across



EPHIA Guidelines

Europe, provide clear and concise information on health impact assessment and provide guidance on how to apply it to policies.

<http://www.ihia.org.uk/document/ephia.pdf>

Websites

HIA Connect

<http://chetre.med.unsw.edu.au/hia>

World Health Organisation International Health Impact Assessment Website

<http://www.who.int/hia>

The HIA Gateway has moved:

<http://www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/hiagateway>