

HIA e-News

The Email Newsletter for HIA Practitioners in New Zealand

Issue 27, June 2010



In This Issue

[Profile: Margaret Earle, HIA Support Unit, Ministry of Health](#)

[Rugby World Cup HIA](#)

[A Brief Guide to Overcoming Barriers in HIA Plus 12 Guaranteed 'Good Idea Killers'](#)

[Ministry of Health HIA Learning By Doing Update Including Feedback from HIA Practitioners](#)

[Call for Abstracts & Registrations for the 3rd Asia & Pacific Regional HIA Conference in Dunedin](#)

[Your Opportunity to Provide Feedback on the Ministry of Health's Website](#)

[Resources of Interest](#)

[Upcoming Training](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

Ministry of Health HIA Support Unit Website:

[Ministry of Health HIA Support Unit](#)

Health, Wellbeing & Equity Impact

Dear Reader,

Nau mai, haere mai ki te HIA e-News.

Welcome to the June 2010 issue of HIA e-News. Despite it being winter it seems the HIA community is not going into hibernation; in fact, you all seem to be more active than ever!

There are a whole range of HIA activities going on, from training to HIAs and the associated information gathering workshops and surveys to planning for the next financial year - well, for those of us with a June cut-off. Busy but exciting times!

In this 27th issue of the HIA e-News, we focus on central government. The news from the Ministry of Health is that it has two new staff members in the Support Unit, Margaret Earle and Sarah Widmer. Margaret tells us a little about herself and her long involvement with public health and HIA work.

Christine Stewart provides an introduction to the Rugby World Cup HIA and Martin Ward provides a brief guide to overcoming barriers in HIA plus gives us 12 'good idea killers'.

We also hear about the progress on some of the Learning by Doing HIAs and the 3rd Asia and Pacific Regional HIA Conference in Dunedin which is now calling for abstracts and registrations - make sure you check out the website for details.

The onset of real winter weather is a good excuse to hunker down and focus on bringing in that HIA harvest.

Assessment Unit (HIA Research Unit):

[Health, Wellbeing & Equity Impact Assessment Unit](#)

PHAC HIA Publications:

[PHAC HIA Publications](#)

Best wishes from us.

**Christine Stewart, Ministry of Health HIA Support Unit
Robert Quigley, Quigley and Watts Ltd.**

Welcome to HIA e-News funded by the Ministry of Health (MoH). This bi-monthly newsletter is a way of keeping people up to date with the latest developments in health impact assessment in New Zealand and abroad.

Profile: Margaret Earle, HIA Support Unit

Margaret Earle will be familiar to many of you through her work at PHAC. Here is what Margaret has to say:

I am working in the HIA Support Unit one day a week while I study towards a Masters in Public Health.

I have had an association with Health Impact Assessment for several years. Many of you will know me from when I worked with the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), the committee that developed the first (purple) HIA guide for NZ in 2003. I was also privileged to attend the 2nd South East Asian and Oceania Regional HIA Conference in Sydney in 2008. The conference was a great opportunity to see how HIA is being applied to a whole variety of settings and topics.

I believe HIA is a really useful way to highlight the strong linkages between health outcomes and social, economic, cultural and environmental factors. It also has the strength of using both evidence and community participation to assist in designing policies.

For the next 12 months I will be balancing my (very part-time) role as Senior Advisor in the HIA Support Unit with work on my Masters thesis. The topic of my research thesis is the health benefits of community gardens. I am really enjoying meeting the amazing range of people involved in local gardening initiatives and the chance to focus on such an interesting and timely topic.

Margaret Earle, HIA Support Unit, Ministry of Health

[Back to the top](#)

Rugby World Cup HIA

The theme song (albeit not on the Top 50 yet) has been announced, the ads are on TV, and the central government work around planning for Rugby World Cup (RWC 2011) is well underway. RWC 2011 hits New Zealand on Friday 9 September 2011. It will run for 45 days and will conclude on Sunday 23 October 2011. There will be 48 World Cup games in 13 different New Zealand towns and cities, and 20 teams will attend.

Since 2008, the HIA Support Unit has been working with the Ministry of Economic Development which is leading the central government co-ordination of RWC 2011. In December 2008, the HIA Support Unit facilitated an HIA scoping workshop on RWC 2011. Thirty three people from 22 different agencies attended the workshop.

A number of priority determinants of health and vulnerable population groups were identified during the workshop. The HIA Support Unit has contracted a literature review due to be completed by June 2010. The literature review is focussing on the following determinants of health:

- increased presentations to Emergency Department and ambulance services
- increased alcohol consumption
- social cohesion - New Zealanders pulling together to make RWC a success
- increased rates of communicable disease eg flu, STDs, HIV, TB

The HIA Support Unit will progress the HIA using the literature review and other sources of information.

For more information contact Margaret Earle or Christine Stewart and [click here](#) for more information about the Rugby World Cup itself, including a schedule of matches and a map of the games.

Christine Stewart, HIA Support Unit, Ministry of Health

[Back to the top](#)

A Brief Guide to Overcoming Barriers in HIA plus 12 Guaranteed 'Good Idea Killers'

There are two main issues in overcoming barriers to doing an HIA; one is timing and the other bureaucratic resistance.

Timing

There are times of the year when it's just not sensible to promote or commence new work that will involve teams of folk across several agencies and require making a connection with the public. The one that is most obvious is late in the year. November and beyond is not a good time to begin new projects. Suddenly everyone is preparing for Christmas and the holidays, timelines get attenuated, key people are not available, and the project starts to look loose and lonesome. Don't go there. Others times include the scramble running into budget preparation. Your organisation will have its own 'no go' times; make sure you know when they are and avoid them.

Bureaucratic Resistance

All organisations have gate keepers. Most also have gate openers. Know who those people are in your organisation and learn how to find ways to manage the gate keepers. Find out why they exercise that control and when. Build relationships with your gate openers but don't overuse them. Align your interest in commissioning or conducting an HIA with the interests of these managers.

Understand that managers are (and need to be) risk adverse. So reverse the risk argument. It is not that doing an HIA is a risk; the risk arises from not taking the opportunity to do the HIA. "How will we know the potential negative or unintended consequences of this proposal until we do an HIA?" "How can we identify all the positive health and well being consequences we need to support this proposal into the budget round unless we have done a HIA?"

Look Out for 'Good Idea Killers'

Look out for the 'Good Idea Killers' - there is a generic set most of which you will recognise. Get

the list sorted into the language of your organisation and start the process of acknowledging them. Tactful exposure will work towards them being set aside in group discussion and allow for more rational discussion on the whys and why nots.

12 Guaranteed 'Good Idea Killers':

1. Can't see how this one's relevant to our target audience
2. You will never be able to sell this idea to management
3. Lets think more about that, LATER
4. I know its not possible
5. We are too small/big for that
6. We have already tried that (we haven't)
7. That will be too expensive
8. NOW is not the right time for this discussion
9. That will mean more work
10. We have always done it this way, so why should we change now?
11. You don't quite understand the problem
12. Lets take it up again, later

Martin Ward, Impact Assessment Specialist

[Back to the top](#)

Ministry of Health HIA Learning By Doing Update Including Feedback from HIA Practitioners

As outlined in Issue 25 of the HIA e-news, we have ten HIAs in progress under the Learning by Doing Investment. These are:

- a transport strategy HIA in the Waikato
- a transport strategy HIA in Canterbury
- a transport HIA in Dunedin
- a spatial structure plan HIA in Manukau (Wiri)
- an alcohol HIA in Northland
- an alcohol HIA in the Wairarapa
- a WOHIA on DHB prioritisation policy in Northland
- a WOHIA on an integrated Whanau Ora centre in Taranaki
- a WOHIA training project in Auckland and Northland
- an HIA training project in Christchurch and the West Coast

Most of the HIAs are up to the appraisal stage, having put their evaluation framework in place before starting, and now building on the screening and scoping work. I've had the opportunity to be involved in peer reviewing many of the reports, and also had an active role assisting the team working on the alcohol HIA in Northland.

The training projects have been completed with favourable reports. The alcohol HIA in the Wairarapa has also been completed and will be up on the HIA website in due course.

As we wait for the HIAs to be completed, I thought I'd provide some highlights and quotes I've received from people in the field, which remind us of the rewards and challenges of HIA.

"Thanks for your feedback. I presented our HIA findings at a Conference last week. I felt that it was well received and there was good interest in our HIA. People queried how would they be able to access the final report and I told them that it will be available through MoH's HIA SU website".

"The workshop has gone fabulously though - more of a visioning exercise but we also ran one small group exercise on potential positives and negatives if 'this option' (which I drafted for them) goes ahead".

"I had problems securing a date at which all our contributors were available for the Scoping Workshop - after several attempts we selected the 29 March. I didn't start writing the report until after the workshop and, with Easter intervening, still haven't finished it".

"One of my biggest learnings is that, as a novice HIA project manager, I hadn't allocated enough time to do the job as thoroughly as I wanted to: I therefore keep running into the time I've allowed for my other projects which is squeezing everything up. I think second and third time round the time I've allowed will be about right.. However, as a first timer, it all needs a bit more preparation and work. I'll pass these observations on to our evaluator as I know they'll be useful".

"Just to let you know that the workshop we held on Friday went well. We're holding a few more meetings/workshops over the next month including a hui. Invite attached for your info".

Christine Stewart, Ministry of Health HIA Support Unit

[Back to the top](#)

Call for Abstracts & Registrations for the 3rd Asia & Pacific Regional HIA Conference in Dunedin

If you haven't already heard, the mighty Southern city of Dunedin is hosting the 3rd Asia and Pacific Regional HIA Conference. This is really exciting news for the HIA community as it provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase all the great HIA's we've been involved with.

Conference topic: Health, Wellbeing and HIA: Working better, working smarter

Date: 17-19 November 2010

Location: University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Call for Submission of Abstracts

The program committee invites interested individuals to submit abstracts on HIA that fall under one of the five main themes outlined below:

1. HIA practice in Asia and the Pacific: what works and what doesn't.
2. Embedding health and wellbeing into organisations - health in all policies.
3. Best practice in training and capacity building.
4. Indigenous-driven HIA: Whanau ora HIA and other similar approaches.
5. Working effectively with other forms of impact assessment.

Case studies of experience that illustrate good practice, or provide other useful lessons, in any of the identified areas of interest are particularly sought and may be given preference in the program.

Submissions may take one of three forms:

1. An abstract of a paper that addresses a specific issue or aspect of the theory or practice of health impact assessment.

Paper (and poster) abstracts must be relevant to the meeting theme. Submitters are particularly encouraged to prepare case studies that cover issues or aspects relevant to the topics listed under the five conference themes, although note that these topics are indicative and not meant to be exhaustive or exclusionary.

2. An abstract of a poster that addresses a specific issue or aspect of the theory or practice of health impact assessment.

The program committee wants to heighten the profile of posters at this meeting. Posters are particularly suited to the presentation of case studies of health impact assessment, and poster sessions have considerable potential as a forum for discussion and interaction.

3. A proposal to organise a theme forum that addresses a major topic consistent with one or more of the five conference themes.

Theme forums are intended to provide in-depth and coherent examination of key concerns and challenges relevant to the meeting agenda. They typically bring together a well balanced line up of speakers or panelists with experience in the fields covered. Theme forums may incorporate a mix of approaches such as a keynote panel, roundtable or workshop.

Visit the [IAIA website](#) for more details on how to make a submission, submission deadlines and registration details as well as more general information about the conference.

Please contact Professor Richard Morgan with suggestions or for more information:
rkm@geography.otago.ac.nz

[Back to the top](#)

Your Opportunity to Provide Feedback on the Ministry of Health's Website

If you've ever wanted to provide feedback to improve the Ministry of Health's website, particularly the HIA Support Unit webpage, here's your chance! The Web Team at the Ministry of Health has put out a very short survey to get feedback for a potential redevelopment of the Ministry's website. There are only four questions, so it won't take long to complete.

[Click here to start the survey](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Resources of Interest

'Influencing Healthy Planning and Policy Development in Local Government: Summary Report'

This is a new report from the team at CHETRE, commissioned by the New South Wales Division of the Heart Foundation (a major Australian NGO), that investigated how 'Healthy Planning' fits within contemporary strategic and land use planning activities in local government in NSW, Australia.

The team investigates how HIA contributes to policy making:

- how to make HIA work with policy making and decision making
- the role of HIA in decision making

- barriers cited to using HIA in Government policy making

The full report will remain internal within the Heart Foundation but [click here for the summary document](#).

PHAC Presents Two New Publications on Urban Planning and Health

The Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), which provides independent public health advice to the Minister of Health, has recently completed a project on urban environments and health in New Zealand. The final report, *Healthy Places, Healthy Lives: Urban environments and wellbeing*, provides an evidence-based review of how the urban environment influences the health of communities. Also available is background piece for the project, *Urban Planners' Knowledge of Health and Wellbeing Issues*, which surveyed urban and transport planners about the extent to which they consider health in their work. They are valuable resources for those working in the planning, transport and health sectors alike.

Some of the greatest advances in the history of public health came from its influence on urban planning. However in recent decades the involvement of public health professionals in issues such as urban development, planning, and transport has diminished and a range of health problems have emerged which are, at least in part, associated with how we live in our towns and cities today. Car dependency has contributed to physical inactivity, increasing levels of overweight and obesity and a rising incidence of associated illness and disease. In some areas air pollution is a problem and, in other settlements, access to basic goods and services to support healthy living is difficult. All too often it is people from disadvantaged backgrounds who suffer the greatest health impacts from poor urban environments and this, in turn, exacerbates health inequalities. With 85% of New Zealanders now living in urban environments the issue is of major importance to the future prosperity of New Zealand.

Healthy Places, Healthy Lives outlines the growing body of evidence on how the urban environment influences the health of communities and describes a number of case studies that illustrate ways to design cities, towns, neighbourhoods and streets to promote health. *Healthy Places, Healthy Lives* also describes the leadership role that New Zealand's health system can take to help shape urban form for improved health outcomes. It identifies specific areas where the health system can best add value in this endeavour - namely urban form and transport, environmental health and health facility infrastructure.

One of the primary pieces of background research in the PHAC's project was a survey of urban planners, urban designers and transport engineers in New Zealand. The survey, *Urban Planners' Knowledge of Health and Wellbeing Issues*, was conducted by BECA. It explored how much planners know about the impact of the urban environment on health and wellbeing, and the extent to which they consider health and equity in their work. It also identified opportunities and barriers to increasing considerations of health and equity in urban planning.

Click here to read [Urban Planners' Knowledge of Health and Wellbeing Issues](#) and the [Healthy Places, Healthy Lives](#) report.

[Back to the top](#)

Upcoming Training

New Zealand Planning Institute Workshops: 'Planning for Community Health and Wellbeing'

This series of practical one-day workshops aims to introduce planners to health and wellbeing

impact assessment (HIA). Planners will be introduced to the methods and practice of HIA. Planning case studies of completed HIAs are presented and critiqued showing how HIA can help achieve planning goals.

Participants will work on scenarios based on real planning situations. The workshop draws on the experience of the participants and the extensive national and international experience of the teaching staff.

The New Zealand Planning Institute will accept attendance as counting towards full members' compulsory annual CPD hours.

The workshops are aimed at:

- planners, policy-makers, analysts or advisors in any central or local government agency
- members of the private sector with an interest in contributing to wellbeing
- people with an interest in how planning affects wellbeing, health and equity.

Workshops have already been held in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. New Plymouth, Hokitika and Dunedin are next. Details are:

- New Plymouth Friday 18th June 2010
- Hokitika Monday 21st June 2010
- Dunedin Tuesday 22nd June 2010

To register please phone Catherine Conland on (04) 384 2049 or email catherine@quigleyandwatts.co.nz

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) Conference 2010: 'From Discovery to Delivery: Science, Policy, Leadership and Action'

This conference will be held at Te Papa (Wellington) on the 26th-29th October 2010.

The conference streams and topics are designed to appeal to a wide range of disciplines: - ecologists, economists, local and central government policy analysts, urban designers, community development specialists, business leaders and industry representatives.

Topics will include "wicked" environmental problems; putting a value on ecosystems; assessing and monitoring sustainability; motivating communities to sustained action; and urban and rural environments that protect the natural environment and foster biodiversity.

Check out the [conference website](#) for more information and registration details.

[Back to the top](#)

Current / Future HIA's

If you have an HIA underway or have just finished one then please get in touch with us and we will post information about it here. This could provide you and your team with useful information / pointers / support to assist you as you go through your HIA.

[Back to the top](#)

Future Training Opportunities 2010 - Reminder

Introductory and Advanced HIA training courses and courses on specific topics related to health, well-being and equity impact assessment can be organised for you. If you would like training to be held in your area or within your organisation please contact Louise Signal or Rob Quigley to discuss tailoring dates and training to your requirements. If appropriate, Rob can discuss the possibility of joint training sessions with other organisations in your area or even with others from other regions. Notices or invitations for training courses can be included here in HIA e-News.

Ph: (04) 472 0139 or email: rob@quigleyandwatts.co.nz; or louise.signal@otago.ac.nz

[Back to the top](#)

Contact Us

Ministry of Health: Christine_Stewart@moh.govt.nz

Quigley and Watts Ltd: kate@quigleyandwatts.co.nz

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