

NATIONAL PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK FORMAT FOR REPORTS FROM JURISDICTIONS 2007

State/Territory VICTORIA

HIGHLIGHTS OF REFORMS AND NEW INITIATIVES

Integrating the social determinates of health into primary health care:

Reforms and New Initiatives	Description	Issues
<p><i>Dental Health- responding to high need groups</i></p>	<p>Victoria's public dental system is already highly targeted towards people in low socioeconomic groups. Children have universal and priority access and adult public dental care is only provided to low-income people through a means test arrangement.</p> <p>However there is opportunity to further equip the public dental system to meet the needs of eligible Victorians most at risk of poor oral health.</p> <p>The strategic document <i>Improving Victoria's oral health</i> provides a framework to improve access for eligible adults most at risk, including indigenous people, people with disabilities, pregnant women and people chronic and complex conditions.</p> <p>Using this framework, over the next fours</p>	<p>As in all Australian states and territories, demand from concession cardholders for public dental care in Victoria far outstrips the system's capacity to provide treatment. Workforce shortages significantly affect the capacity of public dental system, particularly in rural areas where shortages are also felt in the private sector. Significant and further investment is required by the Commonwealth to ensure the education and training of future dental professions.</p>

	years the Victorian public dental sector will implement a number of priority actions to enhance service access and delivery to these groups, including targeted oral health promotion, service coordination, priority access and local area based planning.	
Drought Response	Premier John Brumby has recently announced a further \$1.95 million for the Sustaining Community Wellbeing program to prevent and reduce emotional and mental breakdown as a result of drought. This will support additional counselors, workforce development and personal support initiatives.	There is a need to develop a longer-term coordinated response to permanent climate change rather than the “emergency” driven responses traditionally used.
Child Health: Kids Life!	<p>Victoria has committed \$20.55 million over the next four years to a suite of programs to improve support for people at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. This commitment is consistent with Victoria’s lead on a preventative emphasis under the National Reform Agenda and its associated plan to address obesity and type 2 diabetes. Included in this commitment is:</p> <p><i>Kids Life!</i> (\$2m over 4 years) – a weight management support program for overweight or obese children and their families.</p> <p>DHS are currently developing the <i>Kids Life!</i> program parameters but it will be specific in its scope, targeting parents of children who are <i>already</i> overweight or obese to assist them to make behaviour changes that will encourage long term weight management. <i>Kids Life!</i> forms part of a continuum of interventions, and is support by a</p>	It is recognised that there is limited available evidence about family based weight management programs; however the program design has been informed by expert recommendations and current available evidence.

	range of population based initiatives under the "Go for your life" banner.	
Victorian Women's Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Stage Two 2006- 2010 Action Plan January 2007- June 2008	The strategy draws on the experience and achievements of Stage One and confirms the Government's commitment to improving women's health and wellbeing, with particular attention to the links between gender, diversity and disadvantage. In stage 2, a gender and diversity lens will be developed as a template to assist departmental programs and funded services routinely assess and improve approaches to women's health and well being issues.	

Other:

Reforms and New Initiatives	Description	Issues
<i>Care in your community Strategy</i>	<p>Care in Your Community (CiYC) provides the strategic directions for an innovative, efficient and effective Victorian health system, that will plan and deliver health care that is person and family centred, based in community-settings and planned for the needs of a local population.</p> <p>It is about refocusing and investing in the best mix of inpatient and community-based integrated care services to better meet the health needs of Victorians today and into the future.</p>	<p>The CiYC Planning Networks achieved significant outcomes and much has been learnt.</p> <p>The CiYC consultants concluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CiYC is a sound policy with strong stakeholder support. The CiYC trials attracted a high-level of engagement (including consumers) and CiYC networks achieved consensus on a range of service issues. • Rural Structures fit well for area based planning work.

	<p>The three CiYC trials are now complete and their trial Action Plans were submitted July 2007. The CiYC Consultant Evaluation Report is also complete and submitted mid October 2007.</p>	<p>(Further work required for the development of metro catchments)</p> <p>The Department is currently considering the outcomes and recommendations of the CiYC trials and evaluation. Although it would seem that further work is required for a effective state-wide implementation of area based planning</p>
<p>Refugee Health Nurses</p>	<p>7.5 EFT Refugee health nurses have been located in CHS to help build a coordinated approach to the needs of refugees. RHN provide health promotion, social support and introduction to orientation programs. RHN positions help to develop referral networks and collaborative relationships with GPs. This initiative is part of statewide <i>Refugee Health and Well-being Action Plan</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce • Partnerships • Use of MBS Item (Refugee Health Assessment) • Costs of allied health • Links with other programs • Medication costs