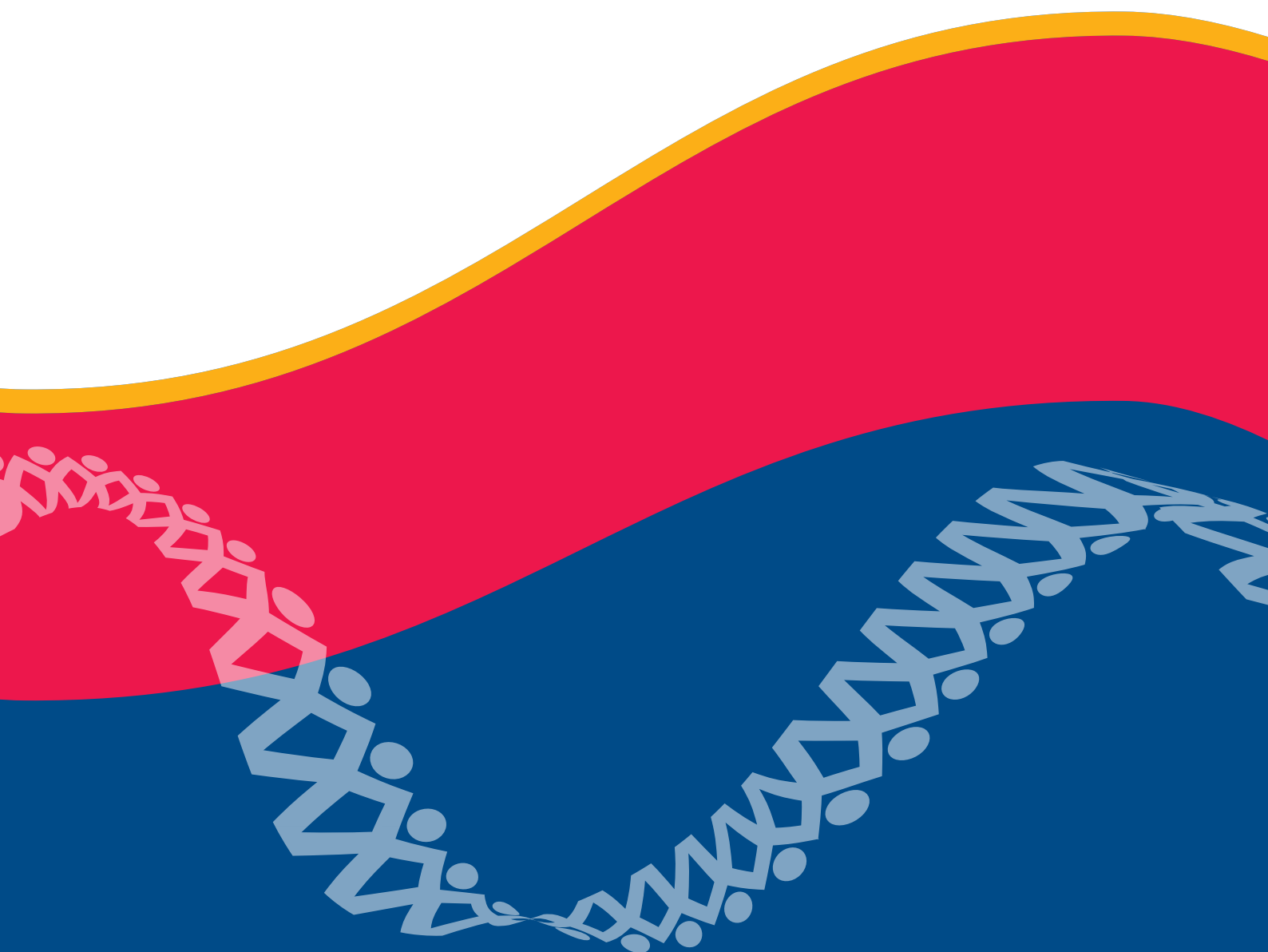


Health in All Policies:

The South Australian Approach



Government
of South Australia

Health in All Policies: a snapshot

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is about promoting healthy public policy. HiAP is based on the understanding that health is not merely a product of health care activities, but is influenced by a wide range of social, economic, political, cultural and environmental determinants. Healthy public policy therefore needs to engage with and mobilise agencies that have the policy levers and programs to influence action in these sectors.

HiAP is a way of working across government to better achieve public policy outcomes and simultaneously improve population health and wellbeing outcomes. Good population health has positive impacts on productivity, sustainability and the economy, therefore it benefits all sectors and society as a whole.

The HiAP concept originated in Europe. It has been incorporated into the European Health Strategy and forms of it are progressively being implemented by all member states of the European Union. The Government of South Australia has adapted this concept to meet the needs of South Australians and, more specifically, to address targets within South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP). Importantly, the South Australian HiAP approach extends the European HiAP work to strengthen the focus on improving health and wellbeing through the achievement of the goals of other sectors.

For more information on HiAP, please see the links below:

- <http://www.ilonakickbusch.com/health-in-all-policies/index.shtml>
- <http://www.euro.who.int/document/e89260.pdf>
- http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/
- <http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthinallpolicies>

The South Australian context

Why we need HiAP

A number of factors such as the rising rates of chronic disease, an ageing population and the costs of health technology are placing increasing pressure on the health system and health care costs. At present, the health budget in South Australia comprises approximately 30% of the total state budget. It is forecast that in the future the health budget could consume the entire state budget if new approaches are not taken to curb the increasing rate of health expenditure.

Burgeoning health costs and increasing public expectations are becoming problematic for all government departments, as health care costs are consuming resources that could be spent to achieve public policy outcomes in other sectors. Therefore, dealing with the social determinants of health is in the interest of all sectors.

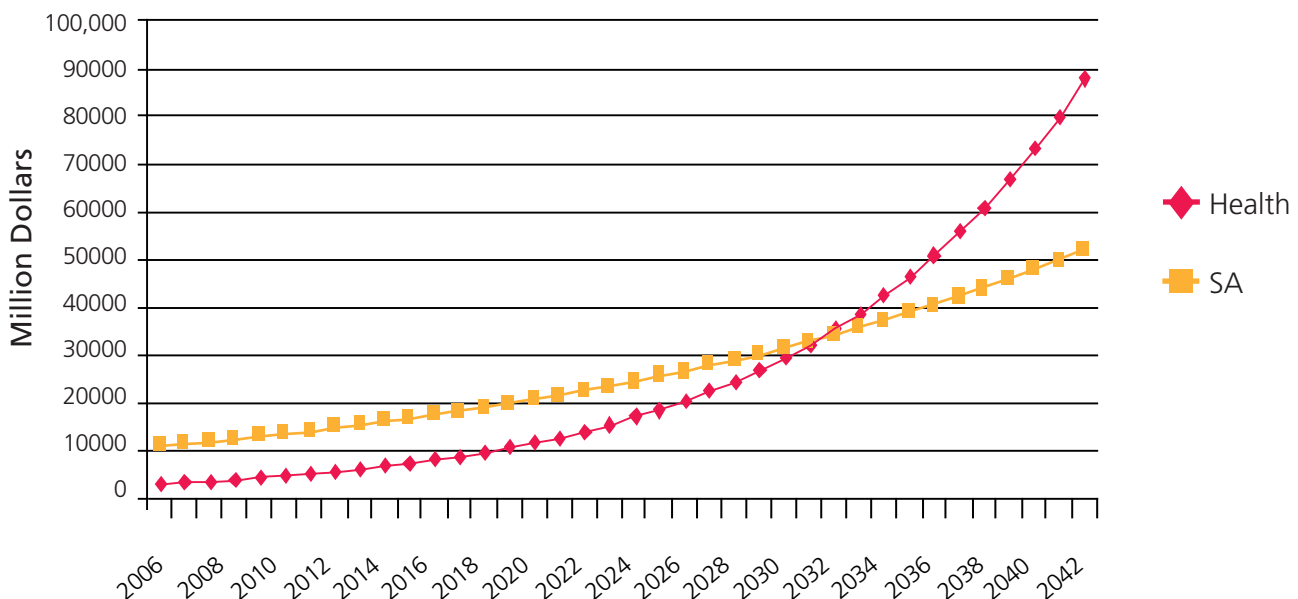


Figure 1: State budget vs. health expenditure – Department of Health, 2007.

Most of the new or emerging health challenges in the 21st century arise from preventable causes, but the health sector alone cannot prevent them. These complex problems require intersectoral solutions which can only be achieved through a joined-up government approach. HiAP provides the Government of South Australia and the Department of Health with a mechanism to implement this new approach.

The development of HiAP in South Australia

Professor Ilona Kickbusch, an internationally renowned expert in public health, health promotion and global health, was the 2007 Adelaide Thinker in Residence. Implementing ‘Health in All Policies’ was the principal recommendation arising from her residency. She proposed that a HiAP approach would provide a strategic mechanism to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes and at the same time assist in achieving key SASP targets.

- <http://www.thinkers.sa.gov.au/Thinkers/Kickbusch/default.aspx>

Application to South Australia’s Strategic Plan

Professor Kickbusch recommended a suite of actions to support the implementation of HiAP across SASP targets. The key elements outlined in her report include selected and agreed SASP targets for a ‘Health Lens’ analysis. The linkages between HiAP and the prioritised SASP targets provide an opportunity to use the existing central government mandate and governance structures to drive the implementation of the approach.

- <http://www.stateplan.sa.gov.au/>

The South Australian HiAP approach

The South Australian HiAP model includes the two key elements of central governance and accountability, and the Health Lens analysis process. It seeks agreement on the policy focus and utilises robust methods of assessment and analysis to explore the links between the policy area and health and wellbeing of the population.

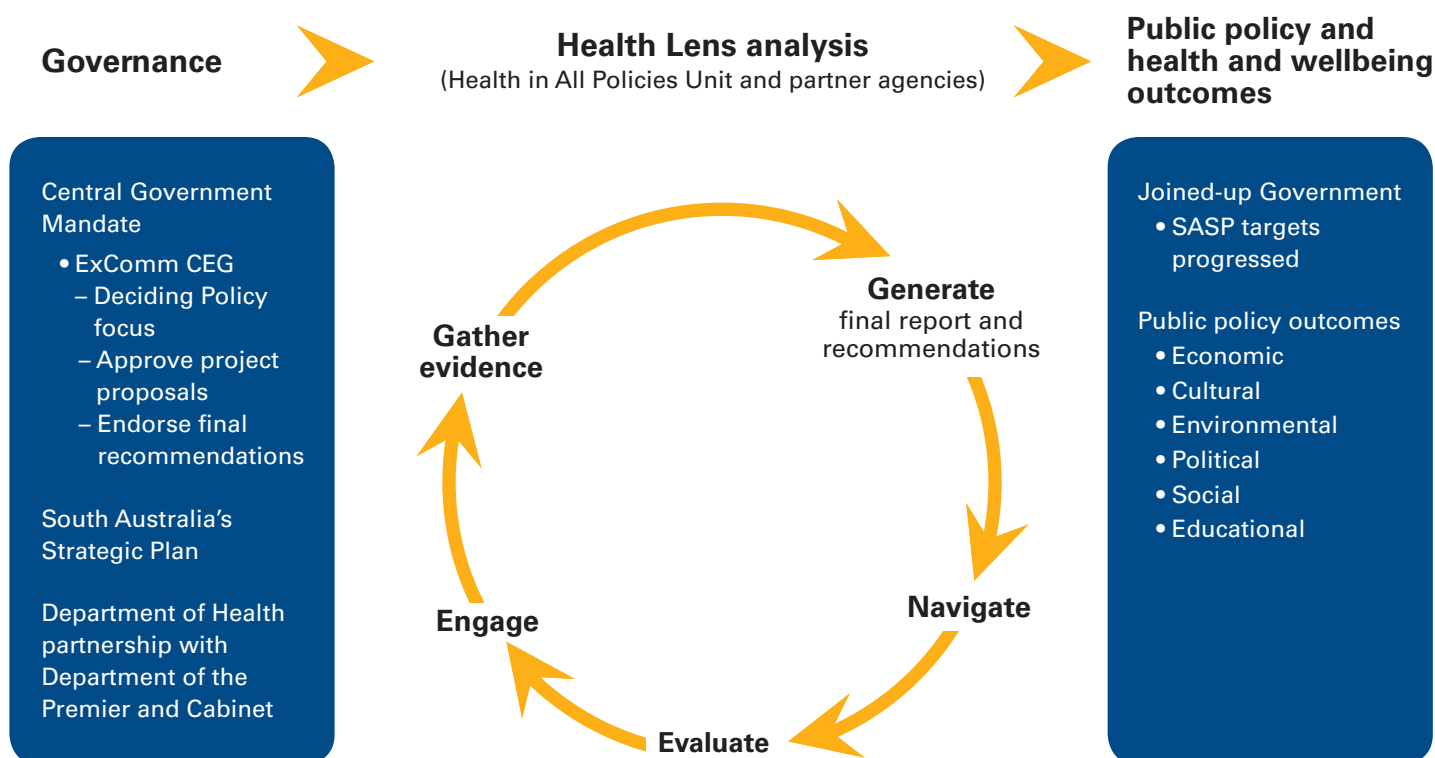


Figure 2: The South Australian HiAP model

Governance from the centre

Central leadership and governance for the HiAP approach is provided by the Executive Committee of Cabinet Chief Executives Group (ExComm CEG), with support from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Health. The ExComm CEG is also responsible for overseeing the implementation of SASP.

Once project proposals have been developed, they are submitted to the Chief Executives of the partner agencies, and the ExComm CEG for endorsement. The final recommendations of completed projects are then submitted for endorsement. Where broader action is required, the recommendations are presented to Cabinet Ministers for noting or endorsement.

The role of the Health in All Policies Unit

Within the South Australian Department of Health, a dedicated HiAP Unit is responsible for implementing the HiAP approach and conducting Health Lens projects. The prioritised SASP targets provide the starting point for engagement and negotiation between the HiAP Unit and other relevant government agencies. Content expertise and technical support for the projects is provided by the partner agencies and the relevant areas of SA Health. In this sense, the HiAP Unit is seen more as a facilitator of the process, acknowledging that its members are not experts in the content area the Health Lens project is focusing on.

Health Lens analysis

The Health Lens analysis is part of the broader HiAP approach adopted by the Government of South Australia. It provides a systematic and flexible methodology to explore the interactions and synergies between the SASP targets, policies and strategies, and determinants of health.

The aim of a Health Lens project is to deliver evidence-based recommendations to inform the development of public policy across the agencies involved, while simultaneously supporting improved population health outcomes.

The Health Lens analysis involves 5 stages:

1. Engage

- develop relationship
- identify/clarify contextual issues
- negotiate and agree on policy focus
- form team and identify resources
- plan work and determine process
- establish evaluation criteria

2. Gather evidence

- undertake evidence gathering phase
- joint exploration and discussion
- reconcile perspectives
- shape conclusions and recommendations

3. Generate

- produce report and final recommendations
- explore implications of recommendations
- test product

4. Navigate

- navigate final report and recommendations through decision making processes
- may include briefings, presentations, meetings, etc
- Department of Health and partner agency Chief Executives sign off
- report to ExComm CEG

5. Evaluate

- evaluate project process, impact and outcome

The following Health Lens projects are examples of the HiAP process being utilised with collaborating government agencies:

- **Water Security – Alternative Water Supplies**
Office for Water Security
- **Regional Migrant Settlement**
Department of Trade and Economic Development; Multicultural SA
- **Transit-oriented Developments (TODs)**
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure; Department of Planning and Local Government;
Land Management Corporation
- **Broadband Use through Mobile Phones**
Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
- **Education – Improving Educational Outcomes in Low SES School Communities**
Department of Education and Children's Services
- **Aboriginal Road Safety**
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure; Attorney-General's Department; SA Police; Department of Correctional Services, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
- **Overseas Students**
Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology; Multicultural SA
- **Healthy Sustainable Regional Communities**
Department of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
- **Active Transport**
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure
- **Local Government approach**
Marion City Council

International Milestones

2010 International Meeting

In April 2010, the Government of South Australia, in partnership with the World Health Organization, hosted a highly successful International Meeting on HiAP. It focused on examples of successful implementation of a HiAP approach and other similar joined-up government initiatives. Particular attention was given to South Australia's approach to HiAP which is emerging as an early example of how governments can work across sectors to improve the social, economic and environmental determinants of health.

The 'Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies'

The key outcome of the International Meeting was the 'Adelaide Statement on Health in All Policies'. It emphasises that government objectives are best achieved when all sectors include health and wellbeing as a key component of policy development and, as such, is targeted not only at health professionals, but also at policy and program leaders beyond the health system.

The Adelaide Statement outlines the need for a new social contract between all sectors to advance human development, sustainability and equity, as well as to improve health outcomes. It will be used to engage leaders and policy-makers at all levels of government — local, regional, national and international.

- http://www.who.int/social_determinants/hiap_statement_who_sa_final.pdf

For more information

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