

Health in All Policies – the 10 principles

In November 2007, following the second part of Professor Ilona Kickbusch's Residency, a cross-government Health in All Policies (HiAP) Conference was held to discuss the opportunity to apply a HiAP approach in South Australia. During this conference Professor Kickbusch led the development of a series of principles which emphasised the importance of across-government work in addressing the determinants of health. These principles have played a pivotal role in underpinning the South Australian approach to HiAP.

A HiAP approach reflects health as a shared goal of all government. In particular it:

1. Recognises the value of health for the wellbeing of all citizens and for the overall social and economic development of South Australia—health is a human right, a vital resource for everyday life and a key factor of sustainability.
2. Recognises that health is an outcome of a wide range of factors—such as changes to the natural and built environments and to social and work environments—many of which lie outside the activities of the health sector and require a shared responsibility and an integrated and sustained policy response across Government.
3. Acknowledges that all Government policies can have positive or negative impacts on the determinants of health and such impacts are reflected both in the health status of the South Australian population today and in the health prospects of future generations.
4. Recognises that the impacts of health determinants are not equally distributed among population groups in South Australia and aims at closing the health gap, in particular for the Aboriginal peoples.
5. Recognises that health is central to achieving the objectives of the South Australian Strategic Plan (SASP)—it requires both the identification of potential health impacts and the recognition that good health can contribute to achieving SASP targets.
6. Acknowledges that efforts to improve the health of all South Australians will require sustainable mechanisms that support Government agencies to work collaboratively to develop integrated solutions to both current and future policy challenges.
7. Acknowledges that many of the most pressing health problems of the population require long-term policy and budgetary commitment as well as innovative budgetary approaches.
8. Recognises that indicators of success will be equally long-term and that regular monitoring and intermediate measures of progress will need to be established and reported back to South Australian citizens.
9. Recognises the need to regularly consult with citizens to link policy changes with wider social and cultural changes around health and wellbeing.
10. Recognises the potential of partnerships for policy implementation between Government levels, science and academia, business, professional organisations and non-governmental organisations to bring about sustained change.