

TASKFORCESUBMISSION: submission

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POSITION: Manager Community Development

ORGANISATION: City of Marion

SUBMISSION1:

Strategic Initiatives and Initiatives

The City of Marion strongly supports the active participation of local government in the “Healthiest Country” directions. There is a strong alignment with City of Marion strategic directions and we are engaged in a number of health related initiatives.

Professor Ilona Kickbusch – draft report – “Healthy Societies: Addressing 21st Century Health Challenges”

Professor Kickbusch was part of the SA Thinker in Residence program in 2006. Professor Kickbusch’s draft recommendations focussed on the social determinants of health and health equity. Her key directions for SA cover policy, measurement, investment in health prevention, partnerships across spheres of government and private industry, local government’s role in supportive environments for health, improving health competencies and literacy, application of a health lens to policy and program approaches and strategic priority to indigenous health.

Southern Adelaide Health Service Leadership Network – Health Improvement Plan

Marion is one of a number of agencies working on a Health Improvement Plan. The Plan has an initial focus on three chronic diseases – cardiovascular disease, diabetes and respiratory disease. We are advocating that the plan focus instead on a broader interpretation of health with a concentration on health promotion and prevention.

EPODE

The State Government is currently considering the adoption of the “EPODE” program which aims to work at a school level, administered through local government, to encourage and support healthy food choices and physical activity for young people, with a particular aim of reducing obesity and overweight.

Alliance for Healthy Cities

Marion is preparing an application for the Alliance for Healthy Cities. Membership will provide an opportunity to link a number of health promotion initiatives, and to engage with partners on collaborative action to improve health outcomes.

GP Plus

A GP Plus Centre is being established in the Marion region. This facility will focus on primary and preventative health services. We are involved to maximise services to the community, provide integration with health promotion initiatives and improve service delivery.

General Observations

The City of Marion is strongly supportive of the recommendations within the discussion paper that stress the importance of all tiers of government and stakeholders working together. We strongly support setting up of the National Prevention Agency and the framework it would provide for engagement, action, policy and measurement.

We believe that the issue of engagement of stakeholders is important. Our experience has been that a key barrier to the good intent of agencies working together, is the disparity in culture, language and purpose.

The City of Marion is also supportive of the Taskforce focus on the social determinants of health and health inequities. Local government, being closest to the community, can be a key contributor in this.

The directions around prevention and health promotion is also strongly supported. Local Government plays a direct role in illness prevention and health promotion through provision of services such as immunisations, food safety and inspections, as well as programs to encourage health and wellbeing.

We support the need for long term sustained funding. Local government often experiences short term funding of programs, which does not enable effective longer term objectives to be achieved.

We agree that a focus initially on alcohol, tobacco and obesity is appropriate given the high impacts on the community in terms of illness, death and societal disruption.

Performance indicators, targets and measures are critical to monitoring progress and ensuring that interventions are well designed. An agreed suite of measures that can be undertaken regularly, and cascade from a national level to state, regional and local level will offer a significant reduction of duplication of effort, and a more consistent basis for action.

PRIVACY: yes

SUBMIT: Submit