

TASKFORCESUBMISSION: submission

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POSITION: Chronic Diseases Network NT Coordinator

ORGANISATION: Northern Territory Department of Health and Families

SUBMISSION1: NT Dept. Health and Families - PREVENTABLE CHRONIC DISEASE PROGRAM

The Preventable Chronic Disease program welcomes and supports the priority interventions and directions of the papers. Below are some general comments in terms of the content of the papers and areas for further development.

Despite being a discussion on preventative health, it seems to be written in a medical model context, with a focus on hospitals and primary care health services. Little mention of the role of acute sector in preventative health.

- Use the Ottawa Charter as an overall framework for actions
- Further strengthen community development strategies, particularly to ensure strong community engagement and social action.
- Strengthen focus on promoting wellness and health promotion
- Strengthen the links between the framework on Page 5 of the Discussion paper, figure 1.2, to the structure of the technical papers.
- Strengthen discussion of the links between Obesity, Tobacco use and Alcohol and health outcomes and illustrate links in the strategies identified.
- Addressing Indigenous Health not adequately represented. Options could include
 1. National Indigenous strategy to include a prevention component
 2. Develop a separate strategy re: preventative health specific to Indigenous communities
 3. Develop another technical paper that identifies research into what works / what doesn't work and why?
- Development of the National Prevention Agency is supported, but need to explore the role of existing agencies and how collaboration between all can be enhanced (eg. ADMA, Associations). Focus the role of NPA on coordination and fund LOCAL coordinating bodies that provide feedback directly to the NPA. Give local communities a voice and responsibility.
- Require further exploration of the support and resources required to enable a shift in paradigm from acute care to preventative health care, particularly management support and engagement.

- Workforce - incorporate discussion on the need for diversity in the health workforce, including peer educators and “non-professional” staff. Explore examples of how this has worked overseas.
- Page 45 - others working in the health care system - omitted Nurses!!
- Resourcing - ensure grass roots strategies are identified and resourced adequately

Obesity

- Obesity is an issue that directly relates to a persons self image and self esteem and as such, requires different approaches in the public health strategies developed.
- Focus on positive messages such as promoting healthy weight, importance of fitness (strong evidence base on the benefits of fitness to health, regardless of body size).
- Strengthen Physical activity component particularly in relation to the community services and facilities required to support individuals, families and communities to be regularly active.
- How will the issue of people with chronic illness who have gained weight due to their medical condition, medications and circumstances, be addressed, as opposed to those who have weight issues due to lifestyle and behaviour issues?

Tobacco

- Acknowledging the power of addiction and not victim blaming
- Consideration of resources required to enforce tobacco legislation
- Workforce diversity - explore options to expand workforce capacity eg. train existing staff to be “authorised officers” to monitor and enforce minor legislation requirements eg. Position of tobacco in stores
- QUITLINE - not user friendly for remote communities - response time, language, lack of local community support

Alcohol

- Recommend strategy to ban all alcohol advertising
- Strengthen the components on binge drinking and the alcohol & driving
- The paper does not cater for the NT context adequately, in particular issues re: licencing, outlet numbers and the consequent impact on shifting drinking behaviour from towns to communities and to outskirts of town
- Needs further development of specific Indigenous and remote communities issues.

PRIVACY: yes

SUBMIT: Submit