

Name of Primary Care Partnership	South East Healthy Communities Partnership
Contact Person	Wendy Mason
Position/Title	Executive Officer
Phone No	03 97933768
Email Address	wmason@cgd.vic.gov.au
Casestudy Title	Leadership and Capacity Building – Climate Change Adaptation

Identified partners you have worked with:

Partner Organisation	Roles and responsibilities with regard to the project	Contact person details
La Trobe University	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance Supporting Climate Change Adaptation evidence base	Associate Professor Rae Walker
Kooweerup Regional Health Service	Chairperson – SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Terrona Ramsay
City of Greater Dandenong	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Mary Rydberg
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Greg Hunt
Monash Division of General Practice	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Slawka Bell
mecwacare	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Janine Stewart
Options Victoria	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Theresa Kennedy
Women’s Health in the South East	Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Eva Orr
Graduates from Department Health, Department Human Services, Department Planning & Community Development	Development of Climate Change Adaptation Risk Assessment Project. Participation in SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance	Caitlin McMahon Trang Nguyen Jordan Wilson-Otto Lauren Costanzo Susannah Middleton
SEHCP staff	Overseeing leadership and capacity building in Climate Change Adaptation priority area	Wendy Mason

SUMMARY:

SEHCP is a partnership of 30 health and community services with a formal governance body. Membership includes service types such as, community health, hospital, Divisions of General Practice, local government, district nursing, ethno specific, women's health, welfare and not for profit.

In 2009 South East Healthy Communities Partnership's strategic planning process identified Climate Change Adaptation as a priority for collaboration.

THE 16 AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION WORK HAVE FORMED A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE TO EXTEND THE WORK.

SEHCP's Climate Change Adaptation initiatives are based on the idea that successful adaptation to climate change requires existing institutions to modify their current knowledge, practices and rules (the institutional pillars described by Scott 2001) to promote community adaptation to the changing climate.

Agencies have identified their responses to a defined effect of climate change using a storyline. A storyline contains a scenario and responses relevant to the mandate and capacity of agencies. The effects of climate change that agencies believed they could respond to, and their responses, were aggregated into a strategic plan for the SEHCP priority action area.

Subsequently a range of capacity building activities have occurred in the first year of implementation aimed at supporting agencies and fostering partnerships that will ultimately support organisations, communities and individuals to adapt to climate change.

The partnership's Strategic Plan is being evaluated over a three year period with expected outcomes to include; an understanding of health effects, appropriate and practical adaptation interventions occurring on many scales and levels, and effective linkages within the service system occurring to amplify effects.

Initial baseline and first year data indicates whilst adding to the complexity systematically linking agency actions has resulted in gaining greater commitment and understanding of response options to the health and social impacts of climate change.

BACKGROUND:

<p>Which SEHCP Strategic Plan priority area or key deliverable does this address?</p>	<p>Leadership and Capacity Building – Climate Change Adaptation Priority</p>
<p>Which Strategic Plan Goal and Objective does the casestudy cover?</p>	<p>Overarching partnership goal/s: Support agencies and partnerships to support agencies, communities and individuals to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build community resilience through increasing capacity to learn and adapt to the impacts of environmental change; • Reduce the impacts of issues associated with increased price of household energy, water prices and availability and increased prices of fuel; • Minimise harmful effects of climate change on health; and • Embed climate change responses into service coordination practices (including intake, initial needs identification, assessment and care planning).
<p>Specific goal that your casestudy may have:</p>	<p>Specific goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and liveable communities • Reduce inequities amongst vulnerable groups • Responsive service systems
<p>Priority issue(s)</p>	<p>Addressing the health impacts of climate change on community (people living in City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Shire of Cardinia).</p>
<p>Target group</p>	<p>Older adults, marginalised groups (including people on low incomes, refugees/ CALD, people with disability, people with mental health issues) and people with/at risk of Chronic Disease.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>The World Health Organization argues that climate change will result in both beneficial and harmful effects for human populations and that the harms are likely to outweigh the benefits. Climate scientists can sketch an outline of the probable changes by country, and even region within a country. The effects of climate change on communities is much harder to predict although there is sufficient contemporary and historical information to begin tracing the outline of the adaptations we will face (e.g. Garnaut Report).</p> <p>In Australia, as elsewhere, there is a great deal of climate change relevant activity at multiple levels of society. There are high levels of community awareness of climate change but not yet high levels of consensus on what needs to be done and by whom.</p> <p>SEHCP’s Climate Change priority work is based on the idea that successful adaptation to climate change requires existing institutions to modify their current knowledge, practices and rules (the institutional pillars described by Scott 2001) to promote community adaptation to the changing climate. In other words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do SEHCP agencies need to know about climate change and its health and social effects? • How do organisational priorities and processes, programs of work and specific work practices need to change to accommodate the imperatives of climate change? • What are the appropriate ‘rules’ (including the norms and expectations of people working in and between organisations, and accountabilities) that are appropriate in a response to climate change. <p>This casestudy documents strategies SEHCP has used to assist agencies to conceptualise the adaptation problem in their community and draw upon existing knowledge and practice skills to assist communities in the adaptation journey.</p>
<p>Specific Casestudy Objectives</p>	<p>Give an overview of the process that has occurred in SEHCP to raise the awareness of the health and social impacts of climate change and how agencies have worked together to develop systematic responses.</p>

SPECIFIC PROJECT PARTICIPANTS:

As listed in Identified Partners.

METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH:

In 2009 South East Healthy Communities Partnership's Committee of Management (COM) invited key stakeholders to join them in a round table discussion on the impacts of climate change.

Following the forum the COM commissioned Associate Professor Rae Walker, La Trobe University, to undertake a literature review to research, identify and make recommendations for practical strategies that could be used by member agencies to support the community to adapt to climate change and minimise potential impact on vulnerable groups (particularly: low socio-economic, elderly, young children and those with/at risk of chronic disease).

The resulting literature review included environmental changes, social issues to be considered, health changes expected, community perspectives on climate change, expected changes and their implications for primary health, story board concepts and strategies for action. Outcomes from this work were presented to 40 managers and practitioners at a local forum and also incorporated into the SEHCP's evidence based planning kit that was developed by the partnership to assist member agencies in Climate Change Strategic and Operational Planning.

Subsequently:

- Climate Change Adaptation was selected as a strategic priority area for member agency collaboration at a forum attended by 45 CEO's and senior managers in December 2009.
- 16 member agencies developed Climate Change Adaptation plans for implementation. These three year plans outline work that each agency either individually, or with partners, will contribute to operationalising SEHCP's 2009/2012 Strategic Plan.

To oversee the implementation of SEHCP's Climate Change Adaptation priority area a Strategic Alliance has been established, with senior management representation from a range of key stakeholders. The Strategic Alliance has Terms of Reference and provides quarterly written reports to SEHCP's COM.

To date key work/achievements have been:

- publication of the Climate Change and Primary Health Intervention Framework in the Australian Journal of Primary Health, 2009, 15, 276-284 (SEHCP is co-author with Associate Professor Rae Walker, La Trobe University);
- presentations at the International Federation of Ageing Conference, poster presentation at the International Climate Change Conference in Queensland (in partnership with La Trobe University);
- facilitation of forums on topics such as Resilience, Evaluation and Health Literacy;
- climate Change Risk Assessment Tool Project (This tool aims to help identify groups or individuals whose health outcomes are likely to be disproportionately impacted by changing climate);
- sponsorship of La Trobe University to undertake a systematic review of the literature, to define a perspective on climate change and a framework for addressing relevant climate change impacts on populations relevant to the primary health sector. The resulting report will endeavour to articulate how climate change relates to key topics, for example, food security, violence etc and evidence in regards to effective interventions. This work will assist SEHCP member agencies to plan appropriate evidence based interventions;
- encouragement of agencies in the implementation of SEHCP Tips For a Green Workplace (The Climate Change Adaptation – "Tips for a green workplace" tool was initially designed for use in General Practice clinics and has been adapted for use by SEHCP for agencies wishing to improve their workplace environment; and
- submission to Sustainable Communities under the Climate Communities Grants program – outcome pending.

EVALUATION

Evaluation for the Climate Change Adaptation priority area is part of the overarching three year Strategic Plan evaluation. To facilitate the evaluation LIME Management Group has been engaged by the partnership to develop and implement the evaluation framework and tools.

The evaluation is based on:

- SEHCP's 2009/2012 Strategic Plan
- Department Health, Primary Care Partnership's program logic & reporting requirements

Evaluation measures include:

- Outcome (ultimate goal), objectives, strategies, activities
- Process and impact indicators

The tools developed for use include:

- Baseline data collection tool for priority areas
- Post implementation tool for priority areas (used annually)
- Leadership and building tool1 (used annually)

The New York Partnership Analysis Tool, developed by the US Centre for the Advancement of Collaborative Strategies in Health is also being used to measure partnership development.

Each member agency involved in Climate Change Adaptation work has nominated a staff person who is responsible for coordination of evaluation data collection within their agency. Training was provided for participating staff prior to collecting baseline data. Sixteen agencies have participated in baseline and first year evaluation data collection.

Findings from the evaluation of the SEHCP Strategic Plan implementation will be disseminated to member agencies annually.

Monitoring of progress will continue to occur via SEHCP's Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance. Regular reports are provided via SEHCP's Executive Officer to SEHCP COM, SEHCP Service Coordination Alliance and SEHCP Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Alliance.

In the year ahead a Community Engagement Strategy and common messages to be used when communicating with Community will be developed and promoted through social marketing strategies.

RESULTS:

<p>Process and Impacts</p>	<p>From 16 SEHCP agencies that are addressing climate change adaptation as a priority area, the following examples of process and impact results have been reported by agencies for the first year of the SEHCP Strategic Plan implementation:</p>
	<p>Process results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight agencies have disseminated climate change information to the target group e.g. newsletter on environmental practices re water, recycling, produce growing, cooking; heat wave information; energy and water saving strategies. • Eight agencies have developed new policies to assist clients with environmental changes e.g. adverse weather, heatwave; coordinated policies between some councils and community health staff; and policies developed in conjunction with after hours service. • Six agencies have implemented the SEHCP 'Tips for a green workplace' environmental checklist e.g. Tip 1 and 2 were implemented the most.
	<p>Impact results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six agencies have allocated resources (financial or personnel) to new policies to assist with environmental changes such as heat wave, fires e.g. Project Officer, Quality and Risk Manager; Community Program Managers. • Six agencies have incorporated climate change as a key priority in their organisational plan e.g. Integrated Health Promotion Plan, Community Plan, Community Wellbeing Plan, Strategic Plan 2010, Organisational Plan. • Five agencies have made changes to the way programs/services are delivered that reduce the impact on climate change e.g. trial change to hybrid cars; green fleet; car pooling; use of mobile tablets and software package; more use of bus pickup of clients; better program planning regarding outings; green office policy covering energy and recycling.
	<p>Expected outcomes anticipated are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health effects are better known and understood; • adaptation interventions are happening on many scales – individual, household, community, SEHCP catchment; • services have capacity to link their interventions to amplify effects using partnership strategies; • appropriate adaptation interventions are flexible and vary across populations and localities as appropriate; • practical interventions include adaptation, coping and mitigation activities; • community resilience is increased; • the impact of increased costs (e.g. energy, water, fuel) on vulnerable, at-risk groups is decreased; and • climate change adaptation is demonstrated within the service system and community.

RESULTS CONT:

Status and Sustainability

The initiative has just completed its first year of a three year plan. Over the next two years the SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Alliance will continue to meet and provide strategic leadership in building the capacity of member agencies to support communities and individuals to address health and social impacts of climate change.

In year two practitioner working groups will also be established around areas of key focus such as increasing community resilience, decreasing the impacts of rising costs of utilities and improving service system responses to climate change.

Learning's from SEHCP Climate Change Adaptation initiatives will be shared and disseminated through:

- Writing of journal articles
- Presentation at conferences
- Development of casestudies
- Posting on SEHCP and other relevant websites
- Dissemination of information electronically.

CONCLUSIONS:

Systematically linking agency actions increases the scale and complexity of the response to a problem. Agencies report that having committed to an action they begin exploring what else they could do. Discussion and activity in the strategic alliance expands shared knowledge and shared understanding of response options. Responding begins a bigger process of climate change relevant institutional change.

In the first year of the evaluation of the SEHCP Strategic Plan implementation it can be seen that agencies have taken real and practical action in disseminating climate change information to clients and others to increase community knowledge and resilience regarding climate change. Equally, agencies have also looked internally to their organisations and developed a raft of relevant new policies in response to climate change and to equip them to assist clients. This demonstrates climate change adaptation by agencies and the service system. A number of other climate change processes and impacts have occurred and are documented in the Annual Evaluation Report. Overall agency self rating in this area has increased slightly compared to the baseline data which may indicate agencies have expanded their understanding and action, and subsequently improved their performance in a relatively new area.

REFERENCES:

Walker R and South East Healthy Communities Partnership (2009), 'Climate change and primary health care intervention framework', Australian Journal of Primary Health. 15:276 - 284.