

Inquiry into Environmental Design and Public Health

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Overview of presentation

1. Introduction
2. Legislative context
3. Health and Wellbeing Plan
4. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning
5. Health Protection and Environmental health

World Health Day, 2010

Urban settings have a direct impact on the health of the people who live there

health

- Launch of WHO campaign to highlight urban planning as “a crucial link to building a healthy 21st century.”
- "In general, urban populations are better off than their rural counterparts...But cities can also concentrate threats to health such as ... pollution, road traffic accidents, outbreaks of infectious diseases and also unhealthy lifestyles," Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General.
- "The wide range of health issues in cities...require coordinated policies and actions across multiple disciplines including environment, transport, education, parks and recreation, and urban planning," Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health.

URBAN HEALTH MATTERS

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2010

1000CITIES
1000LIVES

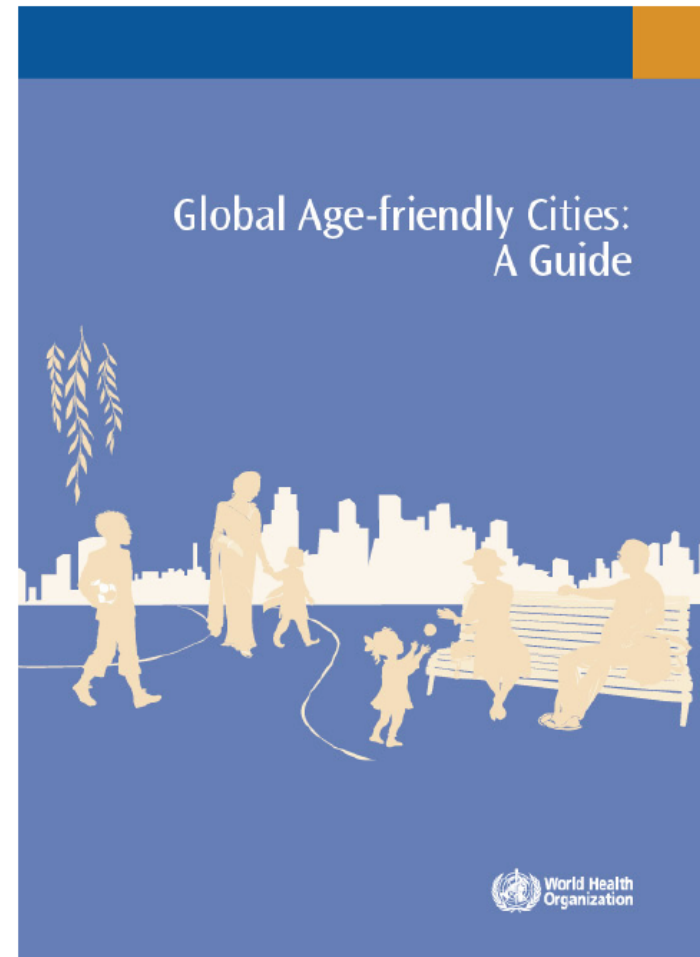
Promote urban planning
for healthy behaviours and safety

- design cities to promote physical activity
- make healthy food available and affordable
- provide health services for all
- improve road safety

World Health Organization

WHO GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES

- “An Age-friendly city is an inclusive and accessible urban environment that promotes active ageing”
- The Age-friendly Cities Programme is an international effort to help cities prepare for two global demographic trends: the rapid ageing of populations and increasing urbanization. The Programme targets the environmental, social and economic factors that influence the health and wellbeing of older adults.



Health issues: physical activity, obesity, diabetes

Physical activity

- 72% of Australian **15+ population** classified as sedentary or having low exercise levels (NHS, 2007-08, incidental activity not included)
- 32.7% of the **18+ population** in Vic in 2008 did not meet national guidelines for sufficient physical activity (includes incidental activity) (VPHS, 2008)

Obesity

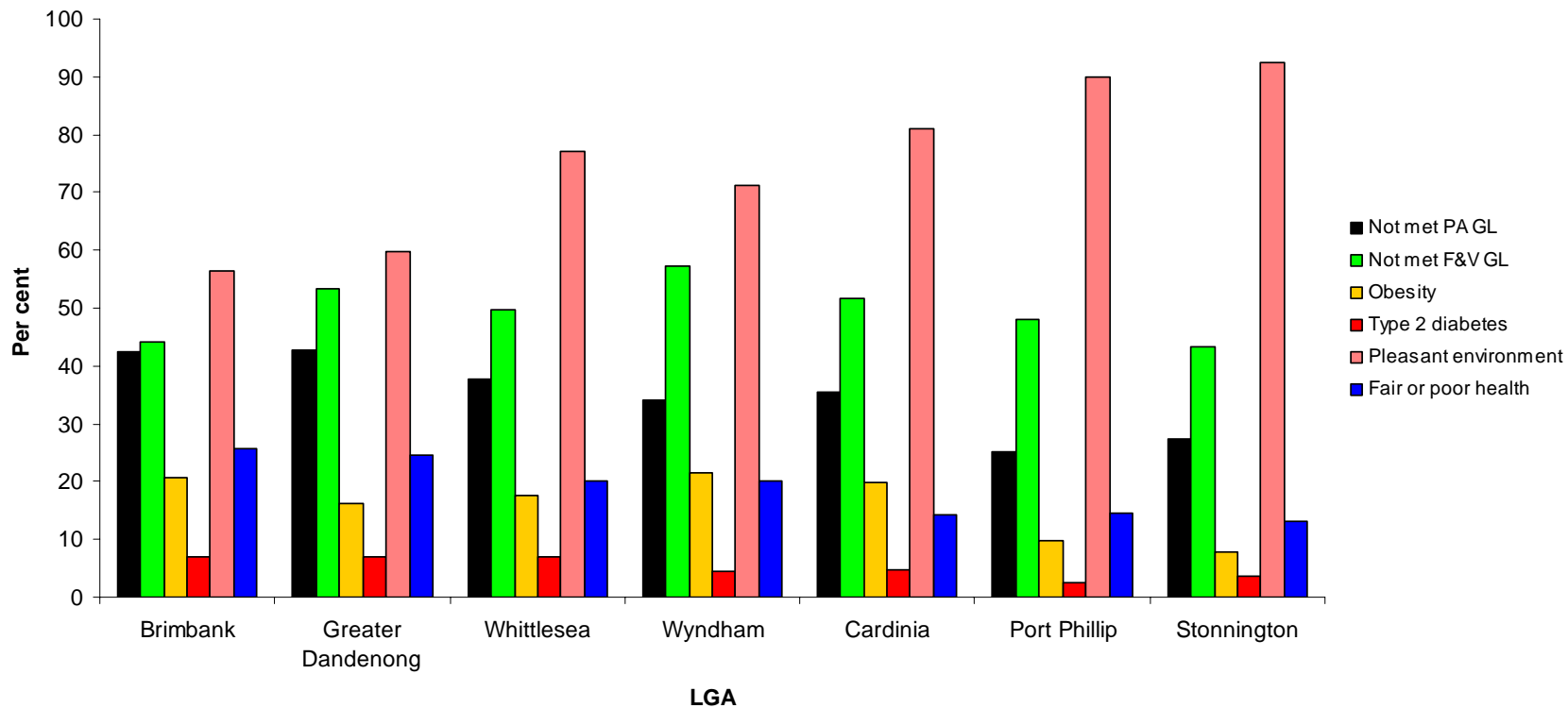
- Almost half of Victorian adults are overweight or obese (VPHS, 2010).
- 25% of children are overweight or obese, a significant increase from 5 per cent in the 1960s (Preventative Health Taskforce 2008). Based on past trends and in the absence of effective interventions, by 2025 this figure is predicted to increase to 33 per cent (DHS 2008).

Type 2 diabetes

- The prevalence of type 2 diabetes increased from 3.3 per cent in 2003 to 4.8 per cent in 2008, a statistically significant increase, consistent with obesity trend.
- Prevalence higher in the LGAs of Melton (9.3%), Hume (8.5%), Whittlesea (7.1%) and Frankston (7.0%) compared with Victoria (4.8%).

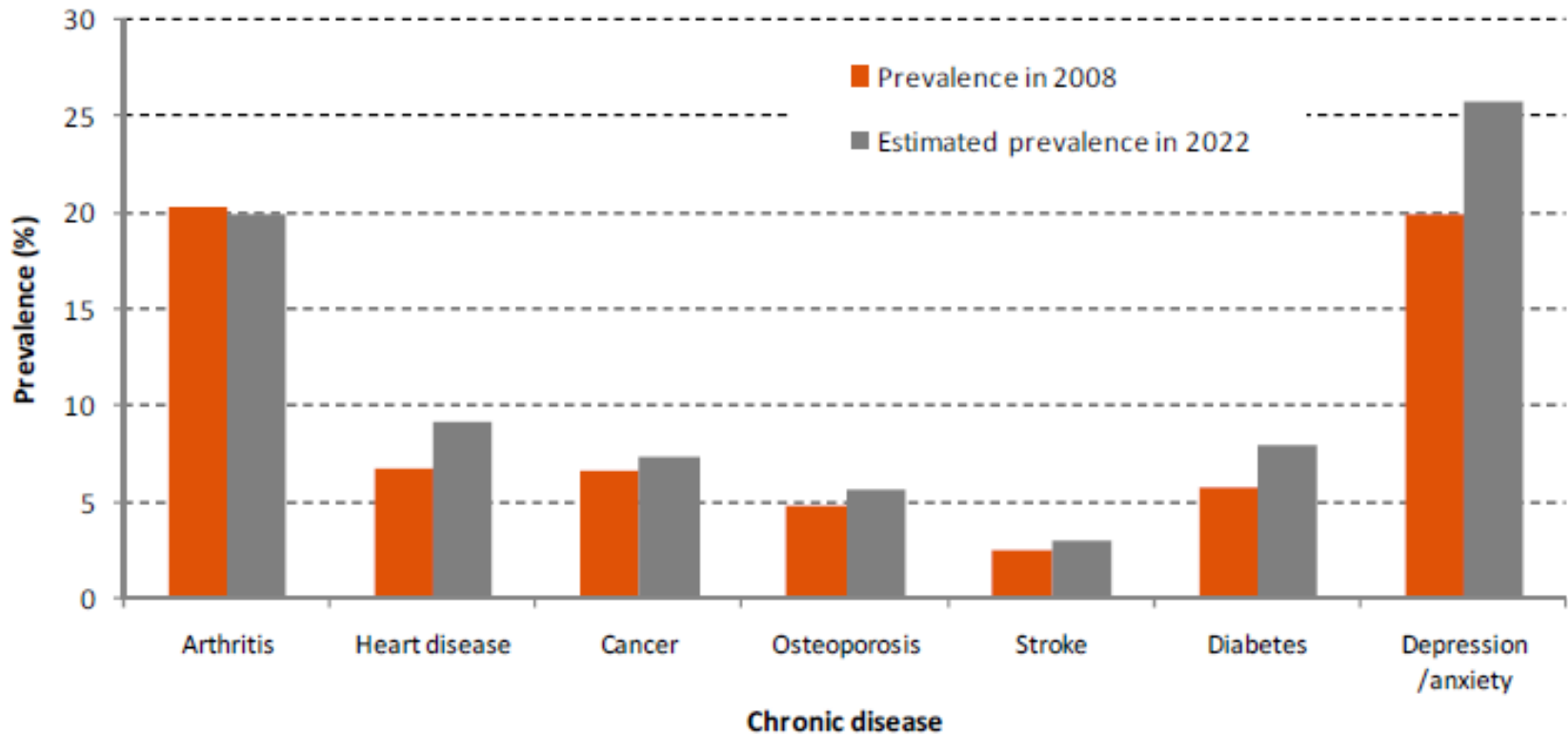
Victorian data suggests association between health-related behaviour and perceived quality of environment

Comparison of health risk factors and health status by selected local government area (LGA) in Victoria
(Data source: 2008 VPHS)



Increasing burden of chronic disease

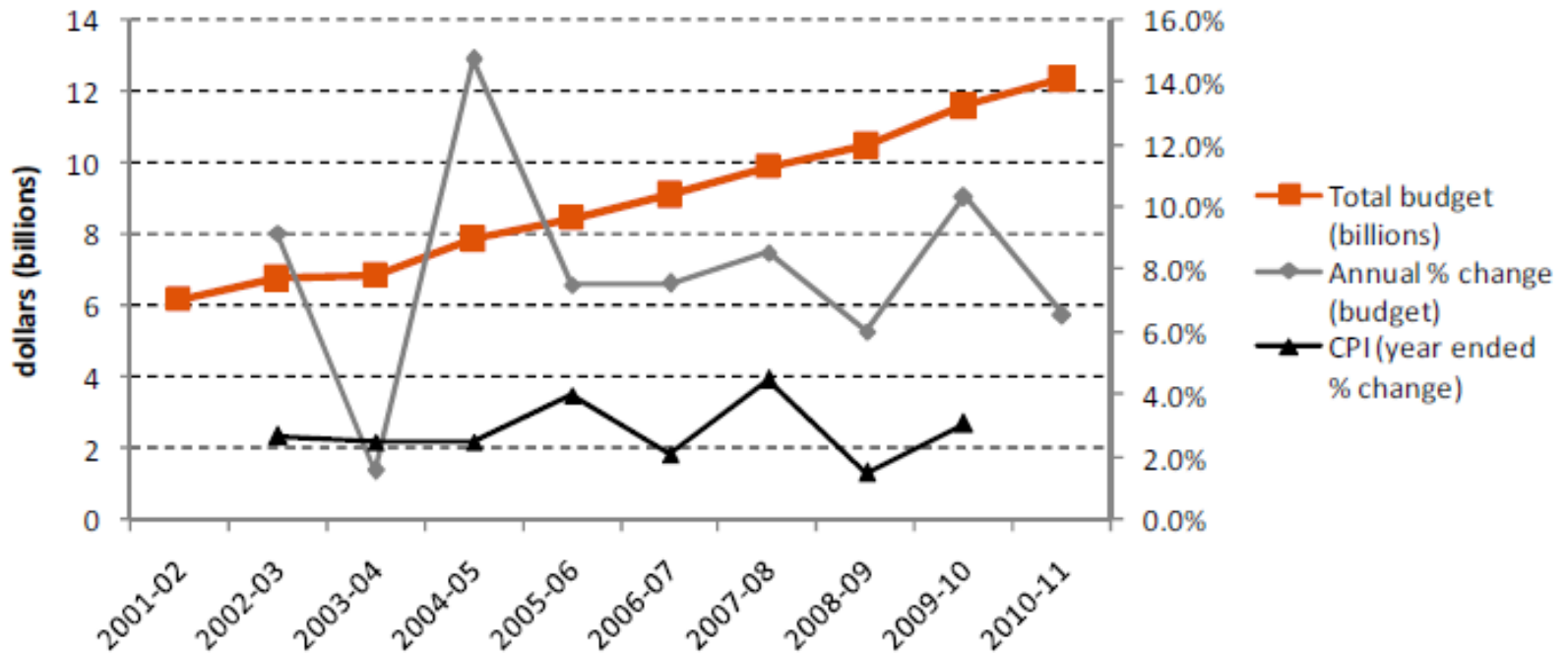
Figure 33: Projected prevalence of selected chronic diseases in Victoria 2022



Source: Victorian Population Health Survey 2008 and Department of Health, Health Intelligence Unit

Rising health costs

Figure 39: The total funding provided for health output groups as announced in the annual budget. Revised or expected outcome figures used where available



Source: Victorian Budget Papers and Reserve Bank of Australia⁴⁸

Legislative context

Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)

Tobacco Act (1987)

- VicHealth; tobacco regulations

Planning and Environment Act (1987)

- Section 26 (2) (e) of the PHWB Act requires that municipal public health and wellbeing plans are consistent with the Municipal Strategic Statements prepared under section 12A of the Planning and Environment Act.

Transport Integration Act (2010)

- Objectives which recognise that the transport system should be planned and delivered in a way that considers the broader social, economic and environmental impacts both now and in the future.

Climate Change Act (2010)

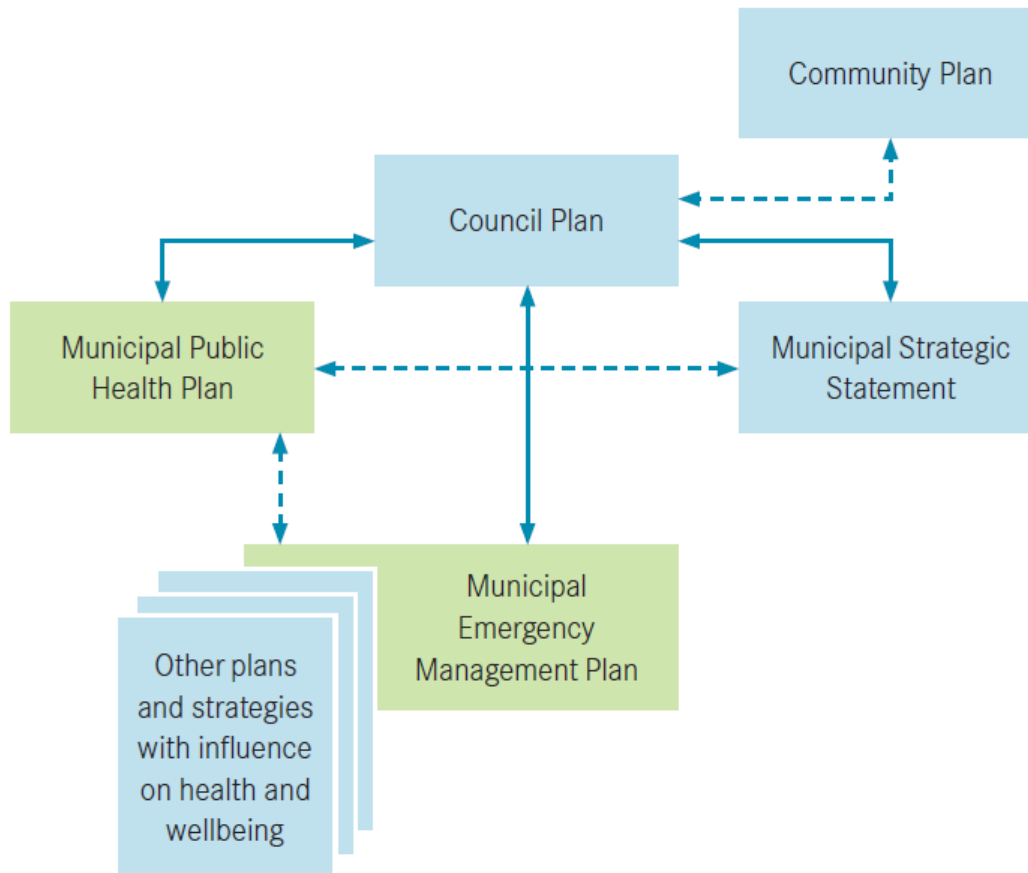
- Requires both state and municipal public health and wellbeing plans to have regard to the impacts of climate change on health. Has also mandated a state wide adaptation plan be developed.

Environment Protection Act (1970)

- Imposes specific controls to prevent or minimise air, water, soil and noise pollution and plays an important role in protecting human health and ecosystems.
- Dept of Health a mandatory referral agency for works approval applications under the EPA Act.

Council planning hierarchy

Figure 4 Council planning hierarchy



Source: Department of Human Services 2009, *Heatwave Planning Guide: Development of heatwave plans in local councils in Victoria*, Public Health Branch, Melbourne, p. 11.

Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)

Guiding principles

- Evidence based decision making
- Precautionary principle
- Primacy of prevention
- Accountability
- Proportionality
- Collaboration

Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)

- Requires that a State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan be prepared every 4 years.
- Requires local Councils to prepare a municipal public health and wellbeing plan within the period of 12 months after each general election of the Council.
- In preparing a municipal public health and wellbeing plan, a Council must have regard to the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)

Functions of councils

1. Creating supportive environments for health and strengthening the capacity of the community and individuals to achieve better health
2. Initiating, supporting and managing public health planning processes at the local level
3. Developing and implementing local policies for health
4. Developing and enforcing up-to-date public health standards
5. Facilitating and supporting local agencies with an interest in local public health
6. Coordinating and providing immunisation services
7. Maintaining the municipal district in a clean and sanitary condition.

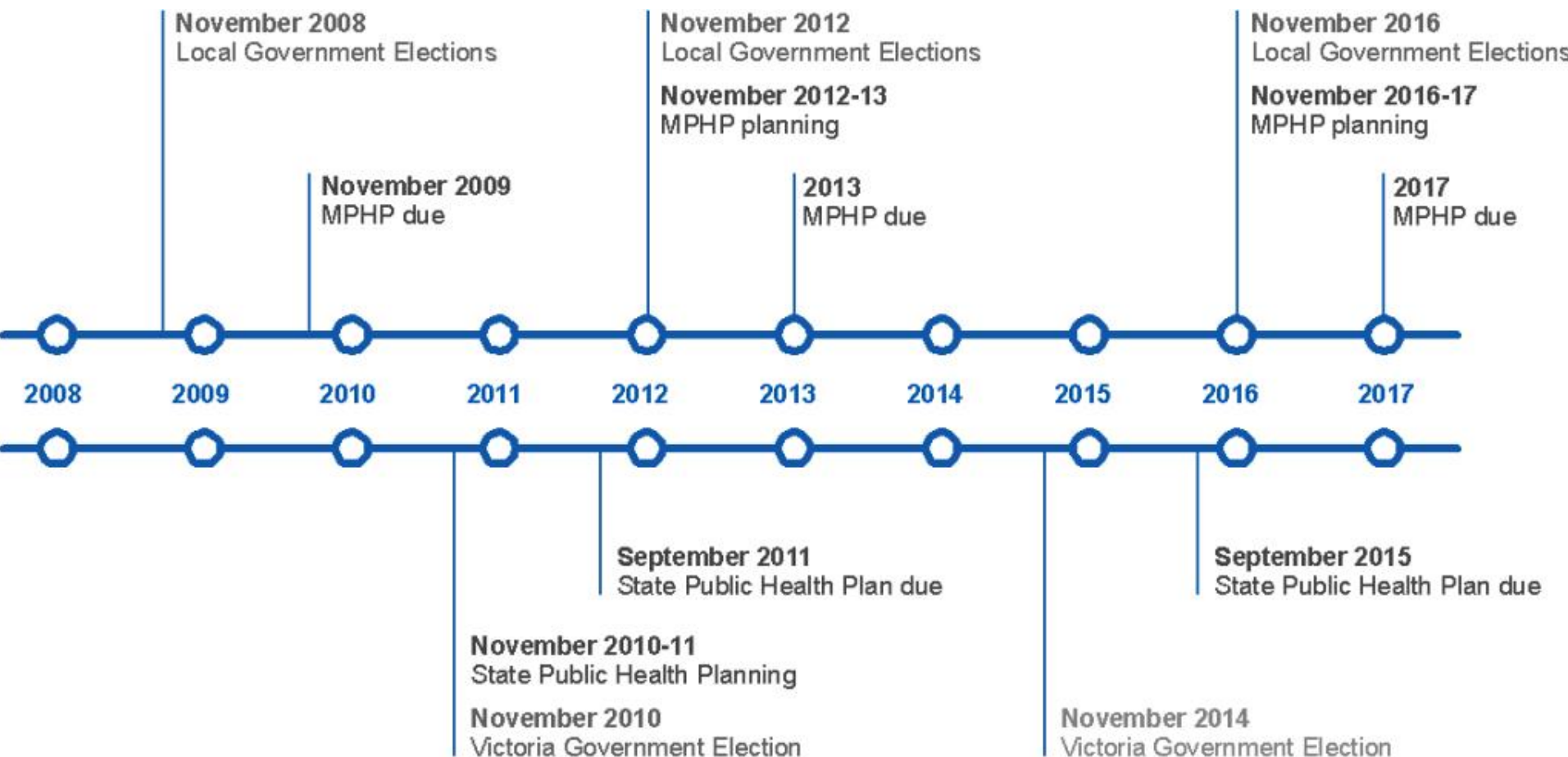
Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

- Released on 1st September, 2011
- Companion document to the Victorian Health Priorities Framework
- Identifies five priority areas over the next four years:
 - strengthen the prevention system
 - support priority settings for action and engagement
 - continue to protect the health of Victorians
 - keep people well
 - strengthen preventive healthcare

- For all communities, the primary strategic planning mechanism for public health and wellbeing efforts is the MPHWP
- Build on the *Environments for Health* framework to support next wave of municipal health and wellbeing planning
- Build on the experience of Positive Ageing in Local Communities Project, and the Improving Liveability for Older People initiative
- Link to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing in development of a Metropolitan Planning Strategy.

Cycle for public health and wellbeing planning in Victoria

health



Department's relationship with Local Government

- Support strategy for local government health planning
 - *Environments for Health* framework released in 2001 to guide the development of Municipal Public Health Plans
 - Focuses on planning for health across four environmental domains (built, social, natural and economic).
 - Evaluation conducted in 2006
- Administration of the Health and Wellbeing Act by local government through environmental health officers – monitoring food safety, infectious diseases, water and air quality, land contamination and chemicals in the environment.

MPHP Support Strategy

- Development of a strong evidence base by:
 - Enhancing evaluation capacity
 - Use of research and data (eg CEIPS, Local area data - VPHS by LGA)
- Promoting the use of existing frameworks and tools to :
 - Design effective processes for annual review of MPHWP
 - Support integration of MPHWP into council strategic planning
- Developing and updating tools and resources to support local planning
- Workforce development: Promoting skills, knowledge sharing and good practice
- Leadership development of councillors and executive staff

Practical guide for municipal public health planning revised in 2009

health

A practical guide to planning

DRAFT FOR REVIEW ONLY

Urban design and health
A guide to relevant resources for planning

DRAFT FOR REVIEW ONLY

This guide is a supplement to the *Environments for Health* (2001) framework. This guide introduces features in our environments that influence population health and wellbeing, along with some suggestions to assist in making improvements.

The *Environments for Health* framework is the major resource for planning for the impact of the natural, built, social and economic environments on health. Since 2001 this framework has been extensively used to guide planning at a municipal level.

Environmental dimensions

- Built/physical
- Economic
- Social

Source: PDF Management

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Department of Human Services

Climate change and health
A guide to relevant resources for planning

DRAFT FOR REVIEW ONLY

This guide supplements the *Environments for Health* (2001) framework (DHS 2001). This guide introduces key resources that inform change adaptation actions relating to health risks which are implemented by local government. It supplements the *Health Framework and Practical Guide to Planning*.

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Environmental dimensions

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Department of Human Services

Public health and wellbeing for Victoria
Victoria's health—prevention is the future

DRAFT FOR REVIEW ONLY

The Victorian government has a long tradition of investment in health resources for prevention and policy to support preventive health efforts. Examples of this policy support are *A Plan for Victoria* and the Department of Human Services Public Health Branch's *Strategic Directions 2005-08*. The government has shown further commitment to preventive health through its act of parliament, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2009)*.

Nationally a strong focus on prevention has now developed. In 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has committed to a six-year program of investment in preventive health through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health. This investment includes substantial incentives for successful preventive health programs. The focus of these programs is on healthy workers, healthy children and healthy communities.

Supporting national efforts in prevention will be a National Preventive Health Agency, which is soon to be established under the National Partnership Agreement. The Agency will inform best practice in policy-making programs.

A multi-faceted approach to public health and wellbeing

Research has demonstrated conclusively that many diseases and causes of death are preventable. The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act ensures that prevention remains a high priority of the Government. The Act also requires that public health and wellbeing become the responsibility of all government departments and levels of government in Victoria. This is necessary if strong preventive action is to be taken because many of the factors that influence health and wellbeing are based in the environment in which we live.

Environmental factors that influence health

Environmental factors that have an impact on public health and wellbeing have been identified by the World Health Organization. They include:

- levels of stress in people lives
- the start in life that babies and infants are given
- how well people are connected to their families and communities
- the nature and security of the work people do
- unemployment

Environmental dimensions

- Built/physical
- Economic
- Social
- Natural

Source: PDF Management

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Department of Human Services

A Victorian Government

Health Protection

- Building local government environmental health skills and capacity
- Heatwave Plan to inform other government agencies, councils and key health and community service providers of impending heatwaves and to make necessary preparations
- Integrated water strategies to use alternative water supplies (recycled water stormwater) safely and improve liveability
- Protect health by assessing works approvals under Environment Protection Act 1970
- Industrial sites continue to present risk management challenges
- Provide advice on health risks related to air & water quality and land contamination