



The Australian Prevention  
Partnership Centre  
Systems and solutions for better health

# ACTIVITY SCAN

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# TODAY

- Activity Scan - why and what
- A few observations
- Potential uses within Partnership Centre
- Options for further distribution
- How to contribute additional information



# WORK PLAN

**Objective 2: Synthesise and make readily available what is known about the prevention of lifestyle related chronic conditions.**

*2.1. Annual activity scans identifying key research and programs in Australia.*



# PURPOSE

Identify and share Investigators' expertise, knowledge and contacts to enable Centre to:

- Draw on relevant existing initiatives
- Helps to avoid duplication
- Identify potential areas for new initiatives or areas to build capacity
- Facilitate broader collaboration and networking with other individuals, groups or institutions in Australia or internationally



# SCOPE

Identify current or planned major chronic disease prevention initiatives (diet, physical activity, tobacco, alcohol)

- Research or evaluation
- Reviews & Evidence Syntheses
- Policies & Programs
- Examples of applications of Systems Approaches (health or elsewhere)



# Activity Scan Process

## Sample

- 34 investigators and funding partners invited to participate
- Response 71%

## Data sources / collection

- Participants completed Template or participated in a semi-structured interview

## Collation and refinement

- Information extracted from interviews and templates
- Further information obtained via targeted online searching



# Output – what it is

- ✓ Product is a database of relevant and useful initiatives: as suggested by individual Centre Investigators
- ✓ Includes information on project title, institutions / contacts, brief description, web-link or comments
- ✓ It is a work-in-progress: can be added to and updated as required
- ✓ It is the product of ‘brainstorming’



# Output – what it isn't

- ✘ We can not assume this is a comprehensive or exhaustive list of chronic disease prevention initiatives in Australia
- ✘ It is not intended to be a report of the Investigators' or the Centre's activities
- ✘ As a brainstorming activity the compiled initiatives have not been appraised or formally endorsed by the Centre





**A few observations...**



# Identified projects some of us were unaware of...

Title	Lead stakeholders/ investigators	Brief description	Link
HABITAT (How Areas in Brisbane Influence health and acTivity)	Gavin Turrell, Queensland University of Technology.	A study of life and recreation among people aged 40 years or over living in Brisbane. Looks at lifestyle, health and well-being, and the facilities and services available in local areas. Launched in 2007 and currently funded until 2017.	<a href="http://www.habitat.qut.edu.au/">http://www.habitat.qut.edu.au/</a>

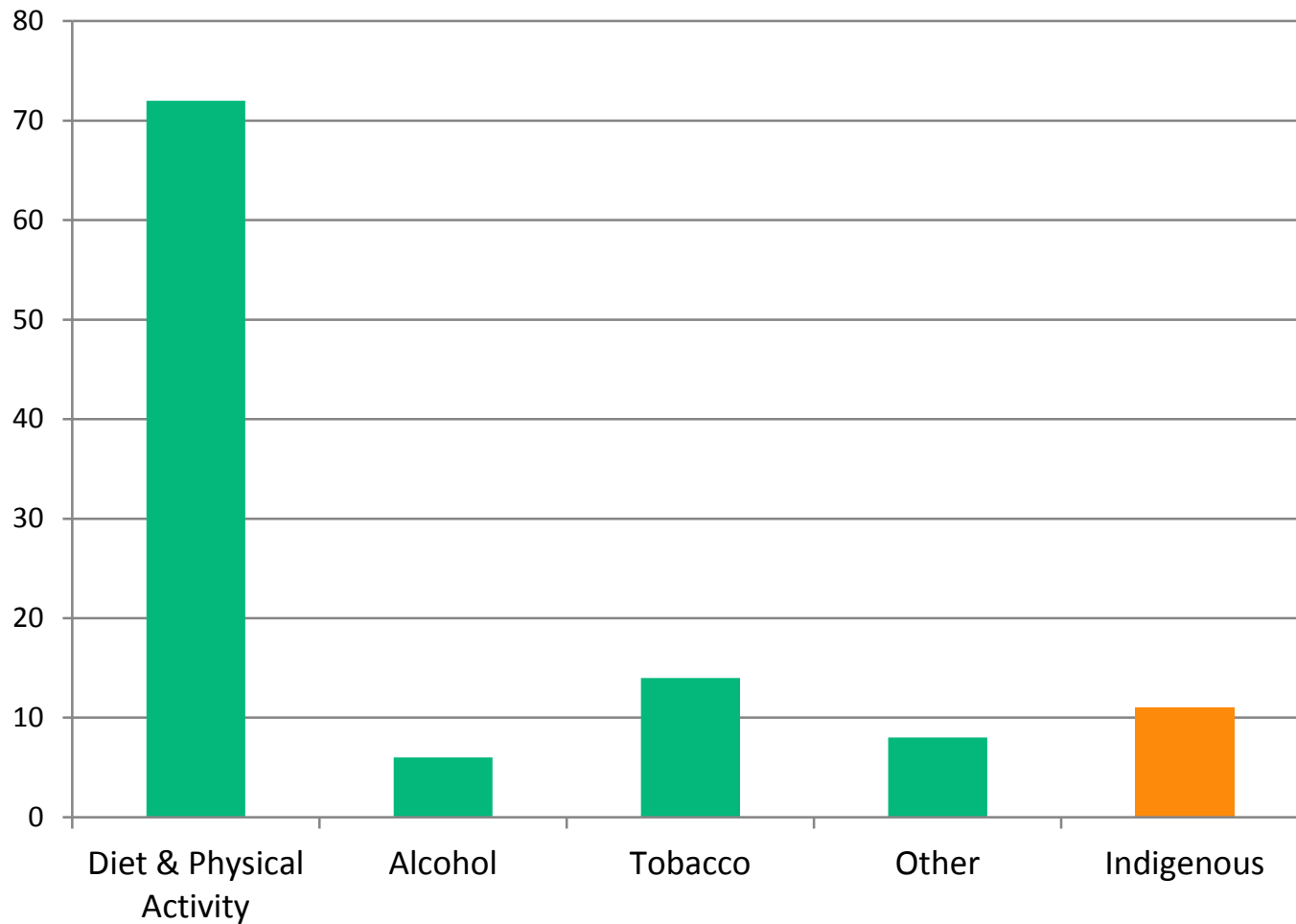


# Provided details of initiatives some of us had heard about on the grapevine...

Title	Lead stakeholders/ investigators	Brief description	Link
AURIN (Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network)	Bob Stimson, University of Melbourne	Building databases that support social science and policy research.  Current projects include: the North-West Melbourne Project; BPNet; small area social indicators for the indigenous population, spatial statistics and econometrics e-tools; cofFEE functional economic regions.	<a href="http://aurin.org.au/">http://aurin.org.au/</a>



# Figure One: Percentages of programs and policies



# Other observations to-date

- Most reported research and policy / program initiatives focus on diet & physical activity, less on tobacco, alcohol, Indigenous health (caveat re collection method)
- Much diversity in the type of research that is underway, possible less than expected overlap
- Currently have few examples of the application of 'Systems Science' (as opposed to system-wide approaches) - either in health or elsewhere



# SYSTEMS APPROACHES

- Activities applying systems thinking, systems dynamic modelling, network analysis, agent-based modelling or multi-scale dynamic modelling methods to policy making or program planning relevant to chronic disease prevention in Australia or internationally
- Examples of efforts to build a prevention system in Australia or internationally



# Proposed and potential uses

## Within the Centre

There is lots already going on – check database when planning new projects or to potentially enhance existing projects:

- Build on existing work
- Identify potential gaps
- New contacts

## Beyond the Centre

Potential value to others outside the Centre, and may help to position Centre as ‘go to’ place for useful information.

- Story in The Chronicle newsletter, with link to database?
- ‘Practice report’ in *Public Health Research and Practice*?



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WELCOME!

To add to the information collated so far:

1. Speak to Jo-An or Eloise during the forum
2. Email information to the Synthesis Capacity at [eloise.o'donnell@saxinstitute.org.au](mailto:eloise.o'donnell@saxinstitute.org.au)





**THANK YOU**  
**to all contributing**  
**Investigators**

