



The Australian Prevention
Partnership Centre
Systems and solutions for better health

Update on the Centre activities and projects

A/Professor Sonia Wutzke
Deputy Director



My presentation

- How our Work Plan comes together
- What we plan to achieve
- Where we are at in terms of agreed activities
- Next priorities



The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

- One of two NHMRC Partnership Centres established in 2013
- Team of 31 investigators from five states and territories and more than 20 agencies
- Resources of \$22.6 million over five years from NHMRC, the Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Ministry of Health, ACT Health, HCF and the HCF Research Foundation
- Administered by the Sax Institute and co-hosted by the Sax Institute and the Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science
- New model for funding research and supporting research co-creation



Partners in collaboration

Funding partners

National Health and
Medical Research Council
Australian Government
Department of Health
NSW Ministry of Health
ACT Health
HCF Research
Foundation

Host Institutes

The SAX Institute, NSW
Centre of Excellence in
Intervention &
Prevention Science
(CEIPS), VIC

Universities and Research Institutes

ANU, ACT
QUT, QLD
The Menzies Centre for Health
Research, NT
University of Notre Dame, NSW
University of NSW, NSW
University of Sydney, NSW
University of Newcastle, NSW
The George Institute of Global
Health, NSW
University of Melbourne, VIC
Deakin University, VIC

Government Departments, Institutes & Agencies

Department of Health, VIC
Department of Planning and
Infrastructure, NSW
NSW Treasury, NSW
Premier & Cabinet, NSW
Major Cities Unit, Department of
Infrastructure and transport
(Commonwealth)

Non-Government & Industry Agencies

Cancer Council of Australia
National Heart Foundation
of Australia
HCF
Hassell Architects

Our strategy

Vision and mission

Our vision is for an **effective, efficient and equitable system** to prevent lifestyle-related chronic disease in Australia

Where the system building blocks include: governance and leadership; workforce; financing; products and technology; policies and programs; and information

We will provide knowledge, frameworks and capacity to enable health decision makers to make **more informed choices** about prevention at policy, strategy, program and implementation levels

Our strategies

With a focus, at least initially, across the priority risk factor areas of smoking, alcohol use, nutrition and physical activity, we will:

Undertake **Research Activities**, either from our Work Plan or through emerging ideas, across three strategy areas:

1. Strengthen the research base for prevention
2. Synthesise evidence and make readily available what is known
3. Help activate an effective and efficient prevention system

Establish **Standing Capacities** to provide advice and support to decision makers, across our areas of expertise:

1. The design and implementation of systems approaches to chronic disease prevention
2. Methods for the evaluation of complex public health interventions
3. Synthesis of practice and research evidence
4. Communication of prevention

Our impacts

Implementing these strategies will generate knowledge (either new or through syntheses of what is already known) that will:

Establish new ways for researchers, policy and program practitioners to work together and form strong national networks

Produce internationally significant research about innovative methods in prevention, systems science and communication of prevention

Help governments and the community better understand the importance of prevention

Develop and provide tools and methods to support national prevention efforts

Support increased capacity of researchers, policy makers and practitioners to use evidence and systems approaches in the design, implementation, evaluation and communication of prevention

Centre governance, policies and operations

- Coordinating Centre established and team recruited
 - Emma Slaytor, Program Manager
 - Marge Overs, Communications Manager
 - Jackie Stephenson, Learning and Development Manager
 - Tess Cooper, Project Officer
- Governance Authority and Leadership Executive meet regularly
- Scientific Advisory Committee being convened
- MIA in place with 9 institutions
- Brand and visual identity developed, web pages established, full website in development, regular eNewsletters, Twitter



It has been a busy year ...



Desired outcomes across five (**overlapping**) areas

1. New ways to work together
2. Internationally significant research
3. Improved understanding of the importance of prevention
4. Tools and methods to support national prevention efforts
5. Increased capacity



1. New ways for researchers, policy and program practitioners to work together

- Standing capacities established
- Practice and policy input explicitly sought
- Implementation Exchanges



Rapid Response Evaluation Capacity

- **The team:** Adrian Bauman, Devon Indig and Anne Grunseit
- **Activities:**
 - Evaluation advice and support: NSW's Get Healthy at Work Initiative and Quit for New Life; ACT's Healthy Weight Initiative
 - Evaluation methods suitable for scaling up (P1/7)
 - The value of routinely collected data for system indicators (P1/10a)
 - The value of population cohort studies for evaluations (P1/13)
 - Evidence syntheses: social marketing, mass media campaigns
 - Online training course for advanced population program evaluation skills



Synthesis Capacity

- **The team:** Sally Redman, Lucie Rychetnik, Jo-An Atkinson and Eloise O'Donnell
- **Activities:**
 - Annual activity scan (P2/1)
 - Syntheses of evidence (P2/2)
 - Broader impacts of the NSW HEAL Strategy (for NSW MoH)
 - Evidence for National Diabetes Strategy (for DoH)
 - Review of prevention strategies for dementia (for the NHMRC)
 - Methods for equally valuing and including evidence from policy and practice in reviews of evidence



Systems Science and Implementation Capacity

- **The team:** Alan Shiell, Penny Hawe, Christine Siokou, Therese Riley, Lyndal Bond
- **Activities:**
 - Systems focus to the work of the Centre
 - Systems resources
 - Census of economic evaluations of prevention strategies (P2/5)
 - Measuring prevention policy and program implementation (P1/9)
 - Use of systems dynamic modelling (P1/11)
 - Implementation Exchanges
 - Social Network Analysis



Communication Capacity

- **The team:** Andrew Wilson, Penny Hawe and Marge Overs
- **Activities:**
 - Framing and story-telling for system-level prevention (P3/3)



2. Internationally significant research

THEORIES OF EVERYTHING



3. Improved understanding by governments and the community of the importance of prevention

- Summary of the 'value' of prevention
- Annual activity scan (P2/1 Synthesis Capacity)
- Syntheses of evidence (P2/2 Synthesis Capacity)
- Framework and methods for evaluating investment options in health (P1/2 Jan and others)
- The use of systems dynamic modelling (P1/11 Shiell and others)
- Census of economic evaluations of prevention strategies (P2/5 Shiell and others)
- Framing and story-telling for system-level prevention (P3/3 Hawe and others)



4. Tools and methods to support prevention efforts (i)

- Key elements of a prevention system (P1/8 Wutzke and others)
- Chronic disease prevention work force (P3/8a Wilson and others)
- Developing and validating national liveability indicators (P1/10b Giles-Corti and others)
- What is needed for a healthy and equitable food system (P1/12 Friel and others)
- Methods for equally valuing and including policy and practice evidence (Rychetnik and others)
- Evaluation methods suitable for scaling up (P1/7 Bauman and others)



4. Tools and methods to support prevention efforts (ii)

- The value of routinely collected data for system indicators (P1/10a Grunseit and others)
- The value of population cohort studies for evaluations (P1/13 Grunseit and others)
- Strategies for addressing barriers to routine evaluation of complex public health interventions (P1/6 Sanson-Fisher and others)
- Measuring policy and program implementation (P1/9 Hawe and others)
- The use of systems dynamic modelling (P1/11 Shiell and others)



5. Increased capacity

- Learning and Development strategy
- Initial focus on skills in program evaluation and health economic analyses
- Workshops on evidence synthesis and critical appraisal
- PhD scholarships
- Early career researcher positions
- Strategies for engaging health professionals in eLearning: Weight4KIDS (P3/8 Baur and others)



Still to come

- Centre evaluation
- Consensus statements (P2/8)
- The value of emerging economic benefits (P1/4)
- Primary prevention pathways (P3/6)
- A national prevention system (P3/9 case studies of sentinel programs, P3/10 assessing national prevention activity, P3/11 evidence gap etc)
- Program implementation and evaluation (P3/4 case studies of variation, P3/5 dose gap and implementation etc)



In summary ...

- Lots happening (group development model by Tuckman, 1965: Forming – Storming – Norming – Performing)
- A lot of effort getting the paperwork in place and keeping the lawyers happy!
- Many projects and other activities underway with several more to be agreed and supported
- Need to focus on actively linking the knowledge creation across projects and program of work
- Need to implement a comprehensive communication and engagement plan to support 'whole of centre'



And finally ...

Academia Explained: Muppets



Undergrad



Grad Student



Post-Doc



Assistant Professor



Tenured Professor



Professor Emeritus



Thank you

Our funding partners



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