



The Australian Prevention  
Partnership Centre

# Lessons from a decade of The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

2 May 2023  
Professor Lucie Rychetnik  
Co-Director



# Acknowledgment of Country

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre  
acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as  
the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands  
where we live, learn, and work.





# Address what is preventable and unfair



“Let's make the assumption...  
that everybody could have  
the same good health as  
the people at the top”

Professor Sir Michael Marmot CH

Listen  
to our  
podcast



Pursuing health  
equity with  
Professor Sir  
Michael Marmot

# An empowered 'prevention system'

## Prevention

Creating change through the organised actions of society

Effective, equitable prevention relies on a connected, informed, aligned and empowered prevention system









# Empowering the prevention system

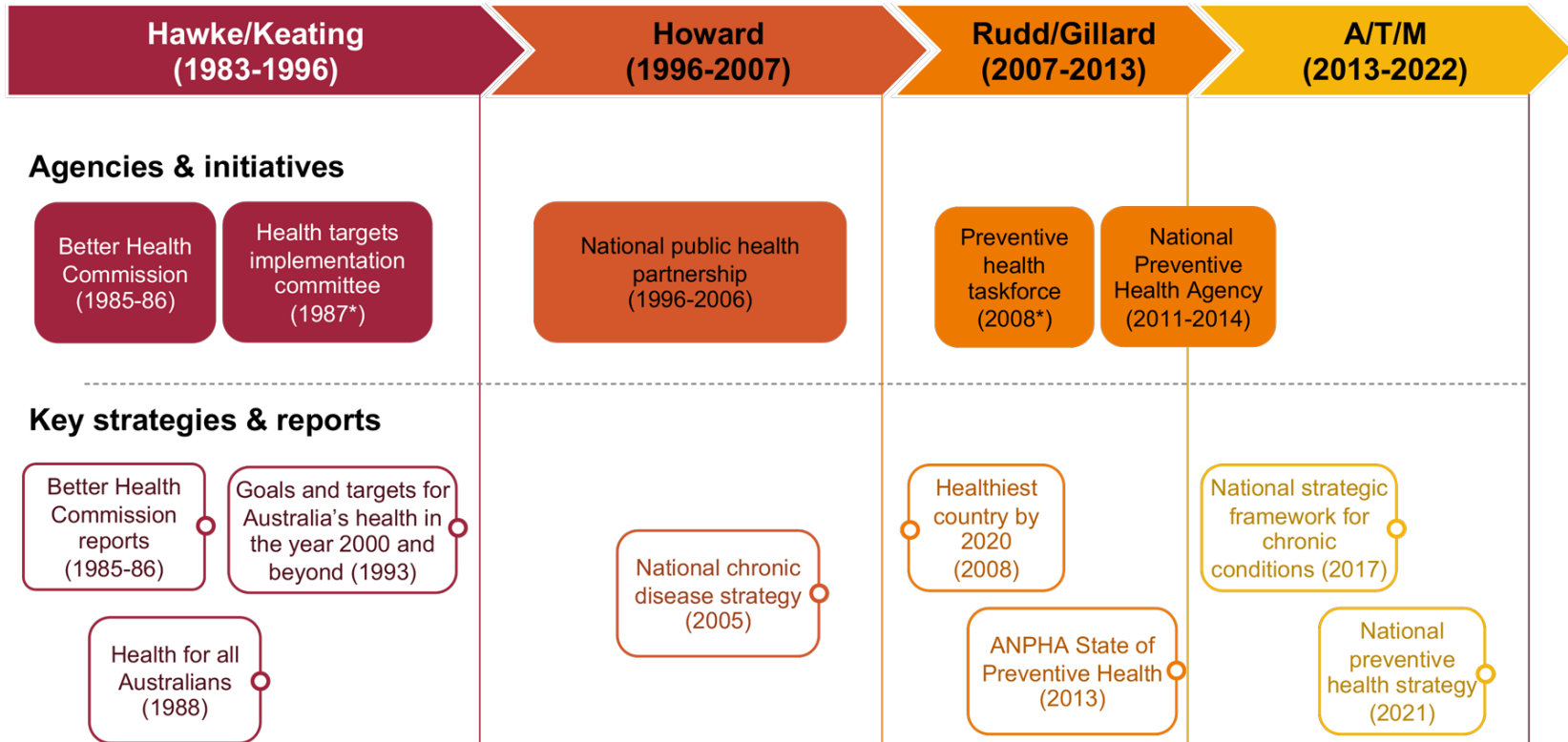
- Effective
- Collective
- Connected - 'Anti-siloist'
- Strategic
- Influential







# Prevention efforts inconsistent at a national level



Source: Page 34, The Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) - Highway to health, Grattan Institute, 2023

# 'Beyond the sound of one hand clapping' - J. Lomas, 1997



# 'Beyond the sound of one hand clapping' - J. Lomas, 1997



NHMRC Partnership Centres  
for Better Health (2013)



The Australian Prevention  
Partnership Centre

(2013-2023)

- Chronic disease prevention
- Systems approaches



# Collaboration for shared value

- 
- Applied research
  - Pooled funds
  - Policy + research partners
  - Science communication
  - Coordination Centre

- System capacity
- Stronger connections
- Exchange
- Impact
- Emerging leaders

# Growing networks



## Funding partners

- NHMRC
- Australian Government Department of Health
- ACT Health
- Cancer Council Australia
- NSW Ministry of Health
- Wellbeing SA
- Tasmanian Department of Health
- VicHealth
- Queensland Health

## Other government agencies

- ACT Government
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Alpine Shire Council, Victoria
- Central Coast Local Health District
- City of Greater Dandenong Council
- City of Parramatta Council
- Dental Health Services Victoria
- Department of Health and Human Services Victoria
- Department of Health Northern Territory
- Department of Health Western Australia
- Glenorchy City Council, Tasmania
- Health & Wellbeing Queensland
- Hunter New England Local Health District
- Kidsafe NSW
- Launceston General Hospital
- Mental Health Commission of NSW
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- NSW Office of Sport
- Peninsula Health
- Port Phillip City Council
- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Tasmania Department of Communities
- Tasmania Department of State Growth
- Tasmania Education Department
- Transport for NSW
- Victorian Department of Health
- Western Australia Mental Health Commission
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Women's and Children's Hospital, South Australia

## Other organisations and institutes

- Adaptive Care Systems
- Alpine Health
- Australian Stroke Coalition
- Australian Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance
- Capital Health Network
- Cancer Council NSW
- Cancer Council QLD
- Cancer Council SA
- Cancer Council Victoria
- Cancer Institute NSW
- cohealth
- COTA Tasmania
- Dynamic Operations
- FARE Australia
- Friends for Good
- Gateway Health
- Health Consumer's Council
- Hunter Medical Research Institute
- Menzies Institute for Medical Research
- NPY Women's Council
- SAHMRI
- Southern Melbourne Primary Care Partnership
- St Vincent's Hospital Sydney
- Telethon Kids Institute
- The Daffodil Centre
- The George Institute for Global Health
- The Sax Institute
- Vision 2020 Australia

## Australian universities

- Australian Catholic University
- Australian National University
- Bond University
- Central Queensland University
- Charles Darwin University
- Curtin University
- Deakin University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Queensland University of Technology
- RMIT University
- The University of Sydney
- University of Adelaide
- University of Melbourne
- University of Newcastle
- University of Queensland
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Victoria
- University of Western Australia
- University of Wollongong
- UNSW Sydney
- Western Sydney University

## International universities

- The Open University, UK
- Simon Fraser University, Canada
- University of Auckland, NZ
- University of Bath, UK
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- University of Cambridge, UK
- University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- VU University, Amsterdam

## Collaboration for Enhanced Research Impact

- Achieving the Tobacco Endgame
- Early Prevention of Obesity in Childhood
- Food Retail Environments for Health
- Health in Preconception and Pregnancy
- Healthy Food, People and Planet
- Healthy Housing
- National Centre of Implementation Science
- Prevention of Falls Injury
- Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care
- Women's Health in Reproductive Life
- Women and Non-Communicable Diseases



# Collaboration for Enhanced Research Impact (CERI)



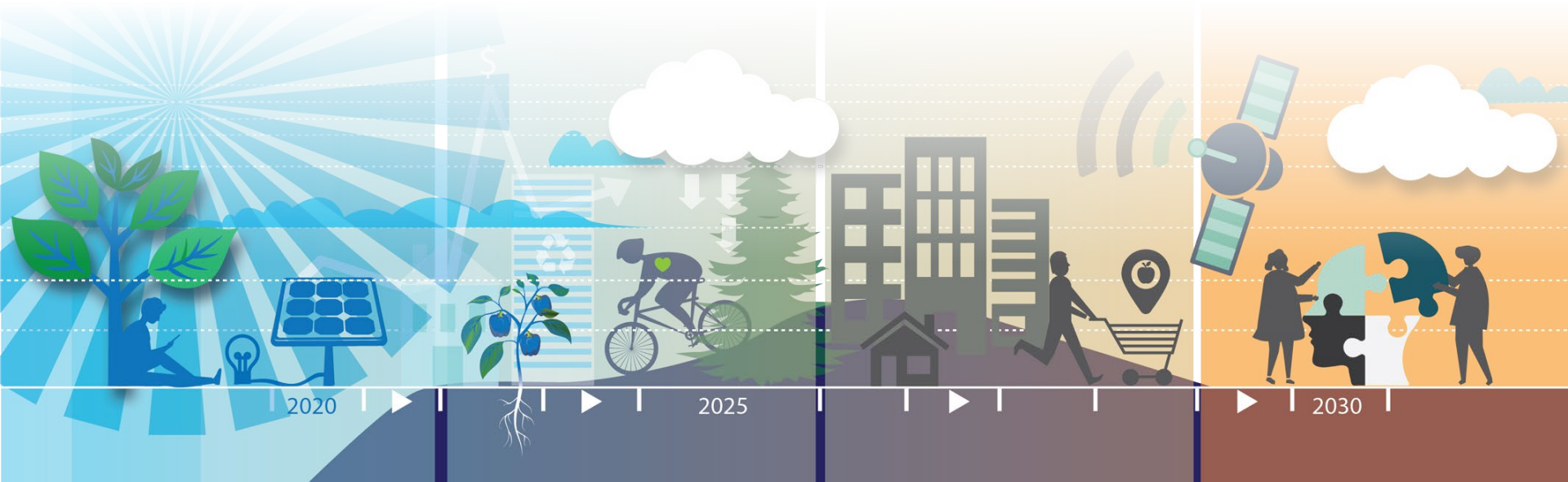
Visit the  
CERI  
website





# Supporting partnerships

Time, consistency and continuity  
of funding, structures, commitment, people...





# Embedded science communication



# Prevention communication tools and resources

preventioncentre.org.au



**NEWS | Women's health more than #WOC**  
Celebrating the contributions of women researchers, we announce the Collaborative for Evidence-Based Research in Women's Health (CEBWH) and its new research program (CEBWH) (Centre of Research Excellence on Women's and Menstrual Health).

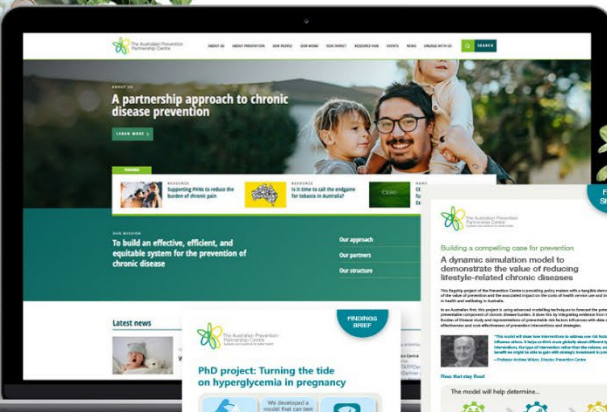
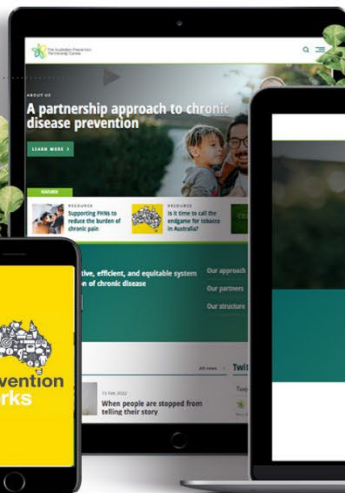
**NEWS | #HPV digital**  
After a long development, we are delighted to announce the arrival of the Health Promotion and Research and Prevention (HPRP) online portal with HealthCare Family Services to assist



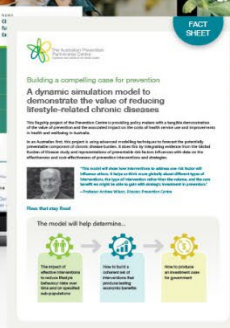
The Chronicle



Prevention Works



Findings briefs



Evidence reviews



Fact sheets

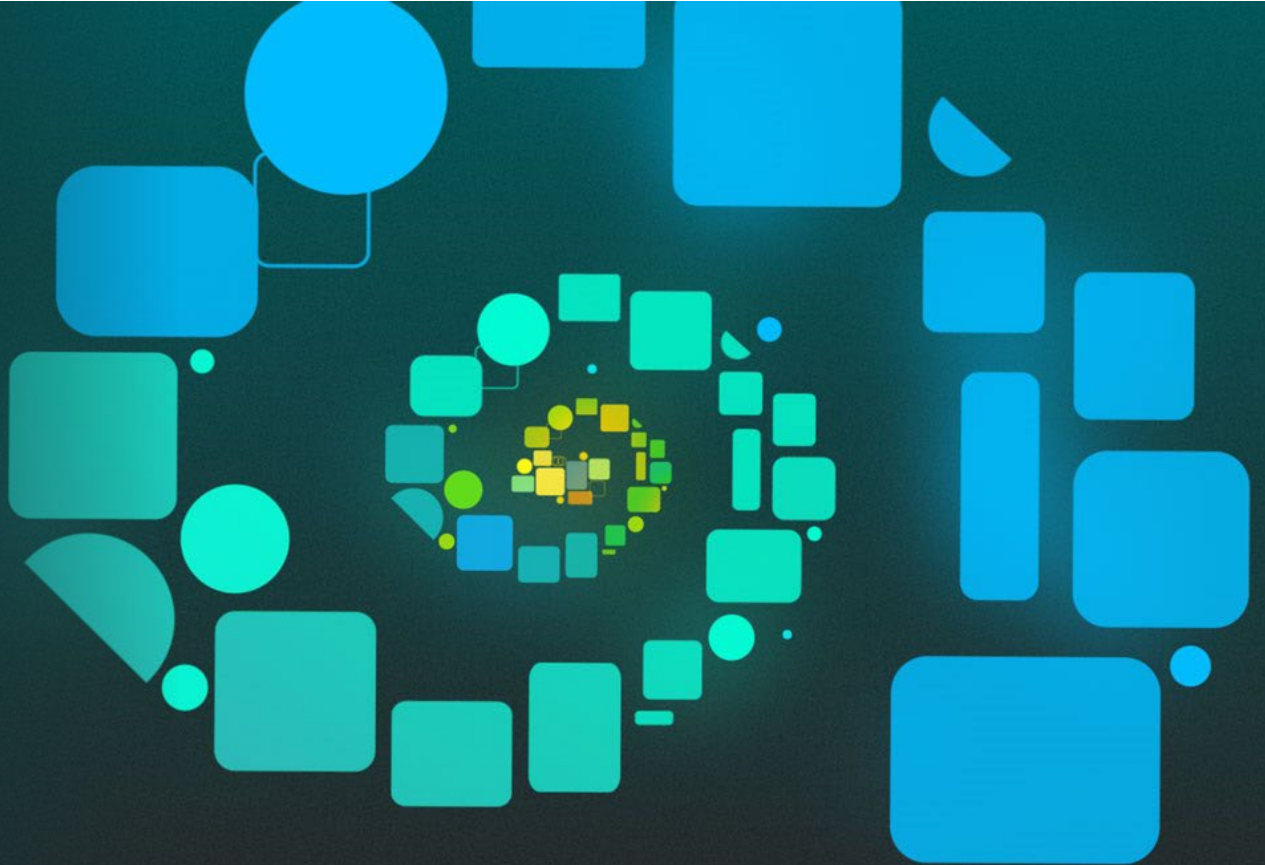




# Prevention as a dynamic system

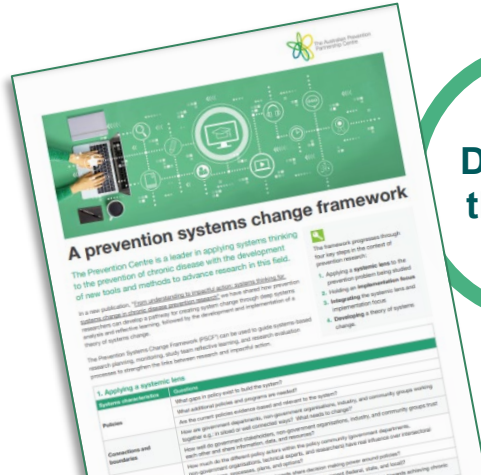
A systems approach examines the boundaries and interrelated causes of a problem

Solutions will consider many perspectives and seek to change that system



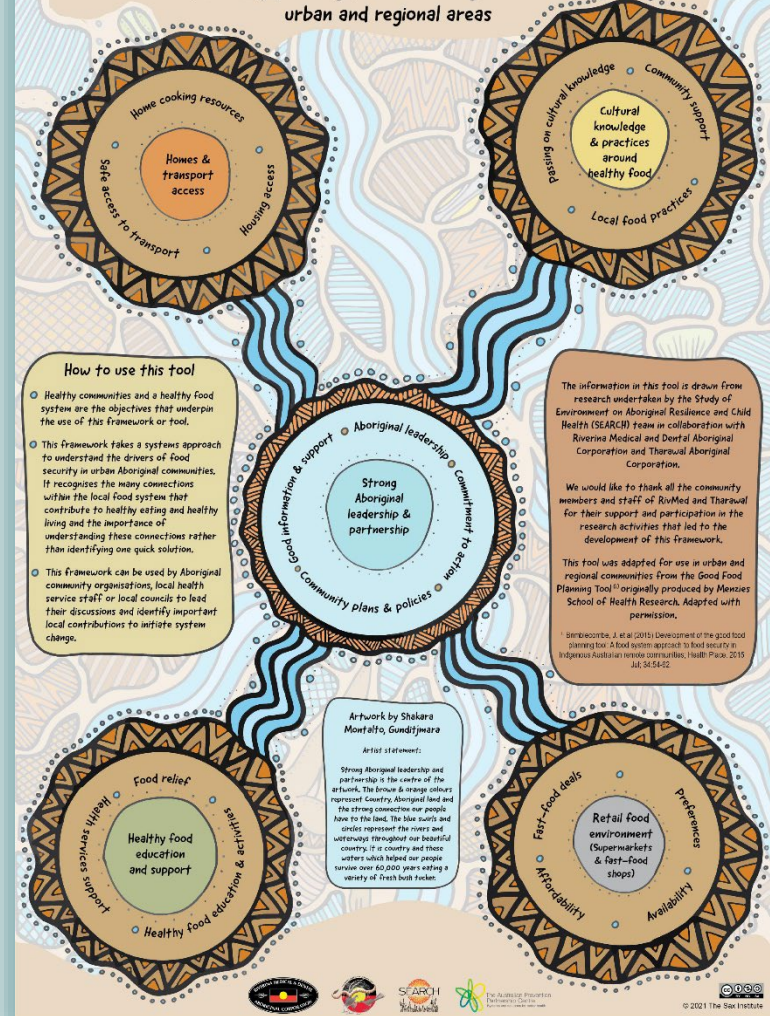
# Systems approaches

- Research
- Community Action
- Prevention System Change



Download  
the PSCF

## Murrumbidgee Dhangaaang (make food secure): a food security planning tool for Aboriginal communities in urban and regional areas



**How to use this tool**

- Healthy communities and a healthy food system are the objectives that underpin the use of this framework or tool.
- This framework takes a systems approach to understand the drivers of food security in urban Aboriginal communities. It recognises the many connections within the local food system that contribute to healthy eating and healthy living and the importance of understanding these connections rather than identifying one quick solution.
- This framework can be used by Aboriginal community organisations, local health service staff or local councils to lead their discussions and identify important local contributions to initiate system change.

The information in this tool is drawn from research undertaken by the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH) team in collaboration with Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation and Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation.

We would like to thank all the community members and staff of RvMed and Tharawal for their support and participation in the research activities that led to the development of this framework.

This tool was adapted for use in urban and regional communities from the Good Food Planning Tool<sup>1</sup> originally produced by Mexico's School of Health Research. Adapted with permission.

1. Smeeth, A. et al (2015) Development of the good food planning tool: A food system approach to food security in Indigenous Australia remote communities. Health Affairs, 34(15): 2615-2622.

**Artwork by Shakara Montello, Gundjinyara**

*Artist statement:*  
Strong Aboriginal leadership and partnership is the centre of the artwork. The brown & orange colours represent Country, Aboriginal land and the strong connection our people have to the land. The blue swirls and circles represent the rivers and waterways throughout our beautiful country. It is country and these waters which helped our people survive over 60,000 years eating a variety of fresh bush tucker.

# Importance of prevention 'boundary spanners'









# Co-benefits of system change



- Win-win solutions
- Support shared goals
- Multiple policy targets
- Co-benefits for multiple sectors

Visit our  
website  
for more



# Transformative System Change



Image: Karen Alsop for the Climate and Health Alliance



# Co-benefits must include equity



“...it is not just about co-benefits of healthcare, it’s the co-benefits of action on the social determinants of health, which will create a better, fairer society”

Professor Sir Michael Marmot CH

Listen  
to our  
podcast



Pursuing health  
equity with  
Professor Sir  
Michael Marmot



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