

Operationalising equity and evidence in local government health planning



Session outline

- **Current local government practice**
- **Why** is health and wellbeing a local government issue?
- **How** can local government respond to health and wellbeing needs of the community?
- **Example** on alcohol-related harms
- The ICLEI **Cities for Safe and Healthy Communities** model

Desktop scan: “fertile ground”

- Commitment to sustainability
- Strong focus on recognising the role of community plans
- Strong consultative processes
- Overall strong planning approaches

Desktop scan:

“Where can ICLEI add value?”

“How does the initiative fit with the context?”

- Plans don't always talk to each other
- Everyone (roughly) agrees on the main subjects but there are different approaches as to what local government can do
- Information is more popular than evidence
- We know who face the greatest inequities but are unsure what to do about it

Plans don't always talk to each other

COMMUNITY PLAN

2007 - 2017

Mixed use sites
with entertainment
alternatives to
alcohol

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN

2007 - 2010

Accords

DRAFT ALCOHOL PLAN

Planning
(signposting),
accords

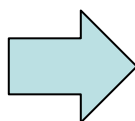
Everyone (roughly) agrees on the main areas of health and wellbeing

Active Transport	Climate change
Community/social inclusion	(Food security/access/affordability)
Crime prevention Community safety	(Housing affordability)
(Alcohol)	Smoking

...But there are different approaches as to what local government can do

Health Plan:

Identified issue:
Assaults (family violence are alcohol-related, New Years Day highest level)

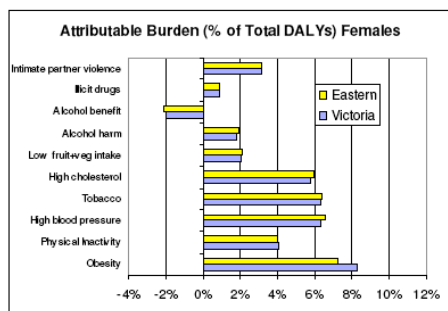
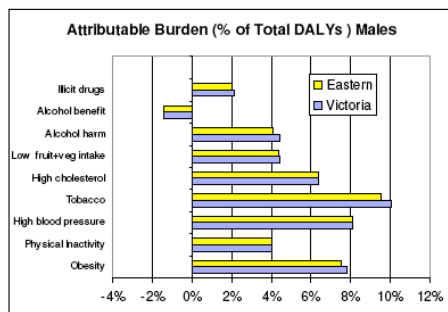


Health Plan action:

Use of sports clubs to encourage anti-violent behaviour

Information is more popular than evidence

Disease burden (DALYs) attributable to selected risk factors by sex, Eastern Region & Victoria, 2001



Source: Burden of disease estimates, 2001 – Risk Factors/Eastern Suburbs Media Briefing Sheet

5.1 Open Space

Parks, sporting grounds and bushland are important for community health and wellbeing. They provide opportunities for people to undertake physical activity and to connect with one another. Contact with nature is also known to have positive mental health benefits.

Council has 550 hectares of open space, which amounts to 9% of the City. There are 344 parks, reserves and civic areas, 52 sports fields, five turf wickets, 200 hectares of bushland reserve, 172 playgrounds, 27 picnic and barbecue areas and 33 public toilets amenities. There are almost 30 kilometres of off road trails and about 15 kilometres of trails in major reserves. Cyclists can also use 17 kilometres of bike lanes on major roads.

We know who faces the greatest inequities but are unsure what to do about it

Description of population demographics usually includes:

- Indigenous population
- Recognition of people with disabilities
- Settlement of migrants from refugee backgrounds
- Socioeconomic background (usually SEIFA)

No clear link to how it informs strategies and what changes should be expected *unless targeted strategy*

No equity impact assessment/notes on population-wide plans

Why is health a local government issue?

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

How can local government respond to health and wellbeing needs?

5 available policy levers:

- Land use and planning
- Licensing and regulation
- Facilitation and leadership
- Community engagement/development
- Workforce development

(NLGDAAC Proposal 2008)



Figure 1: Major Contributions to harm from alcohol consumption

Source: Dibley G, PDF Management Services *Local government reducing harm from alcohol consumption*. Issues Paper no. 2, September 2007, Prevention Research Quarterly, Drug Information Clearinghouse, Australian Drug Foundation, page 3.

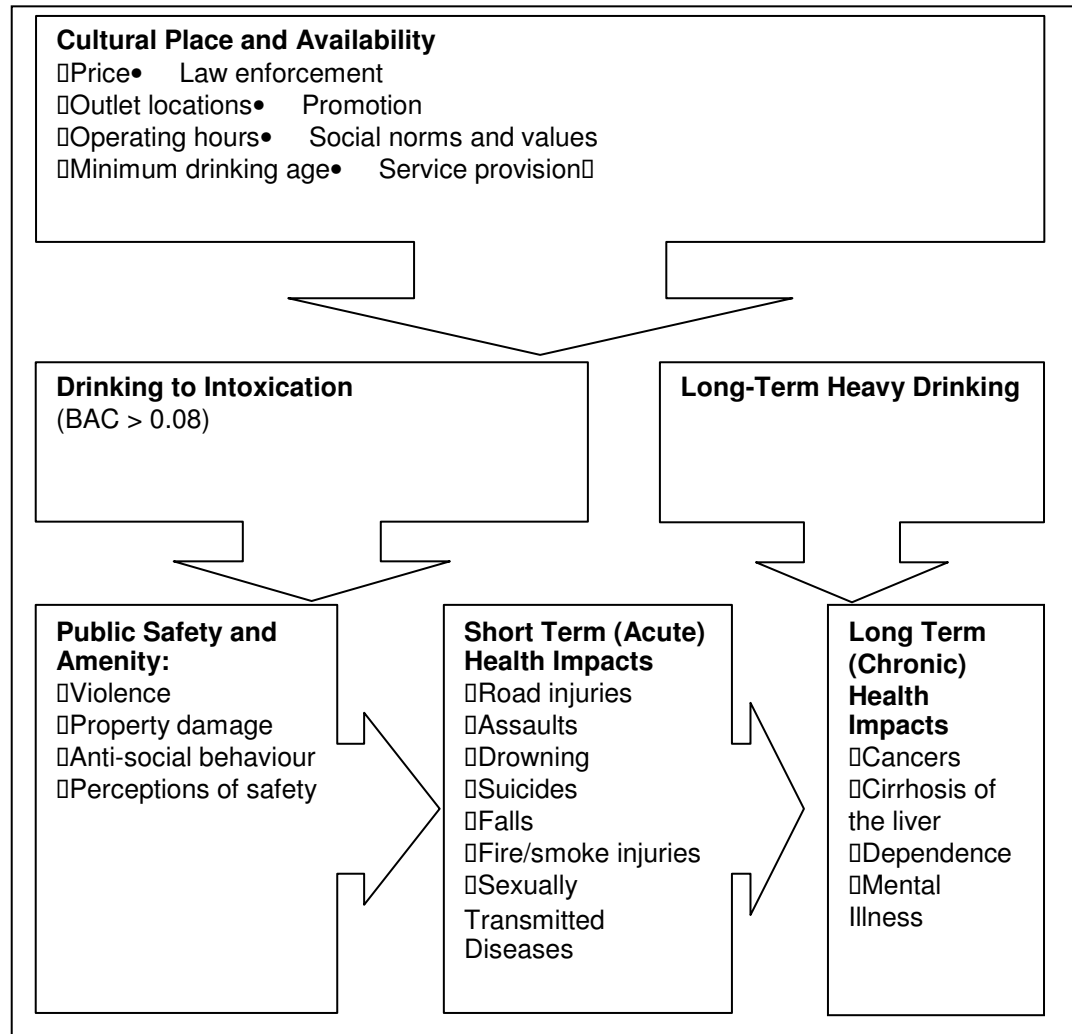


Figure 2: Determinants framework for alcohol harms, Source: MCDS 2006

Sample Council alcohol plan

Land use and planning	Licensing and regulation	Facilitation and leadership	Community development	Workforce
<p>Mixed use planning (24/7)</p> <p>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)</p> <p>Outlet density setting in precinct plans</p>	<p>Use of precinct plans to set approval/objection/conditional arrangements</p> <p>Performance monitoring of local venues</p> <p>Restricted conditions of licences to community clubs leasing Council facilities</p>	<p>Alcohol accords</p> <p>Advocacy to link planning and licensing approvals processes</p> <p>Advocacy to create more transparent and consistent tribunal decisions</p>	<p>Diversion program that employees at risk youth as trainees across Council</p> <p>Balance of alcohol-free Council-sponsored community events</p> <p>Community grants programs</p>	<p>Supervisor/Middle management training to ensure effort-reward balances</p> <p>Whole-of-organisation encouragement to participate in FebFast</p>

ICLEI model

5 Monitor and review

(Prepare to start again)

Model built on capacity to demonstrate effective change

4 Implement

**Trouble-shooting support
Share successes**

3 Plan actions

(Rapid reviews, local context relevant, evidence-informed, equity-assessed)

Development of tools and checklists

1 Inventory

(agree on indicators, data sharing agreements, database)

**Agreed indicators by Feb 09
Database by June 09
Milestone 1 completed by Oct 09**

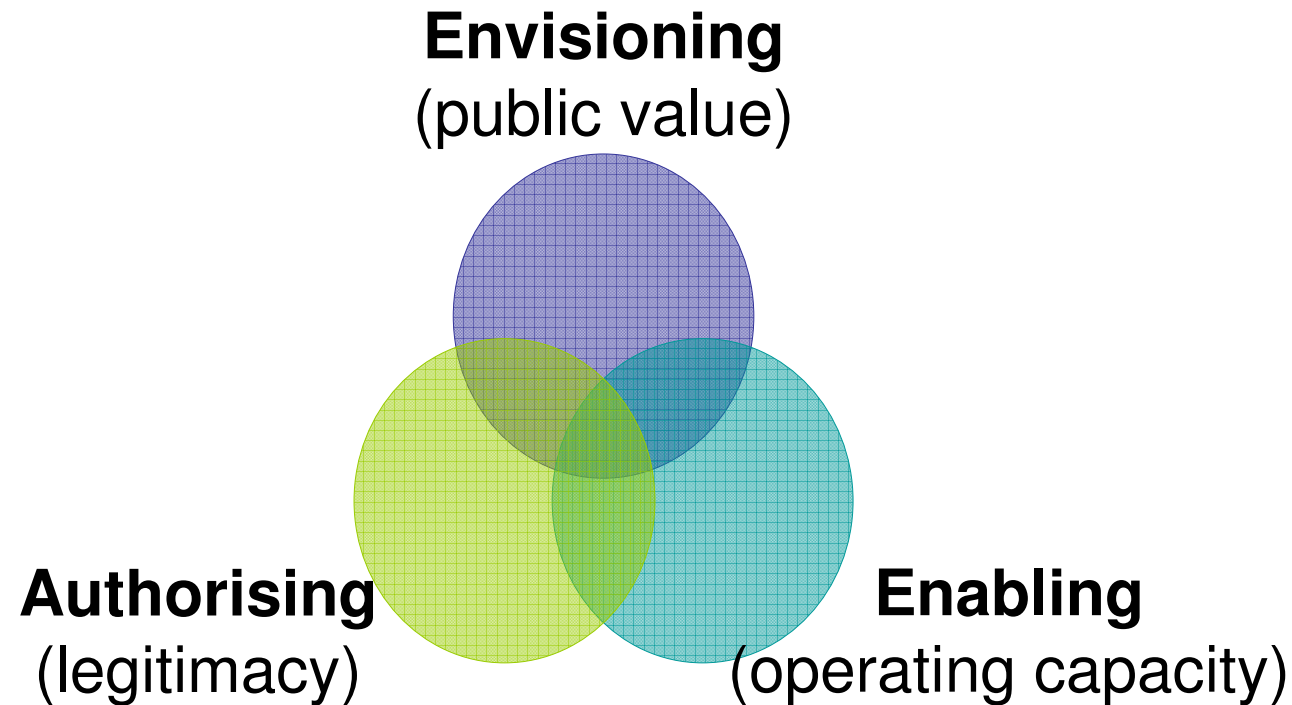
2 Set goals

(and get Council resolution)

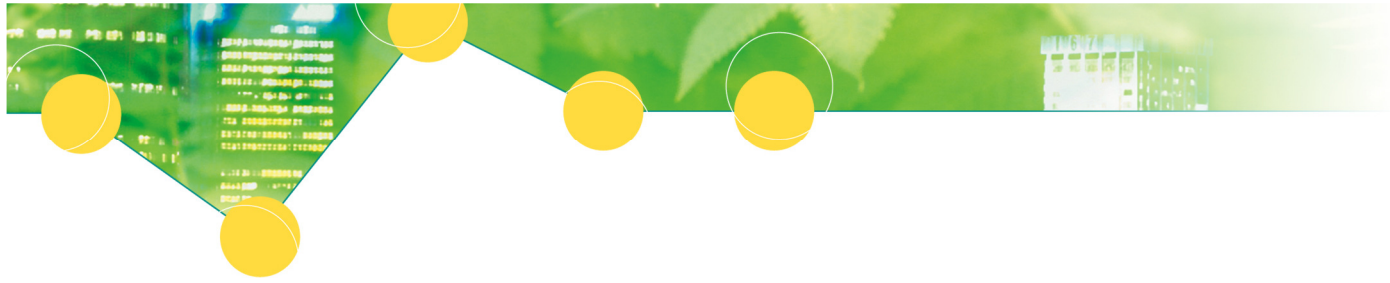
**Work across Council
Ensure top-down support
Build links with urban planning**



Policy development

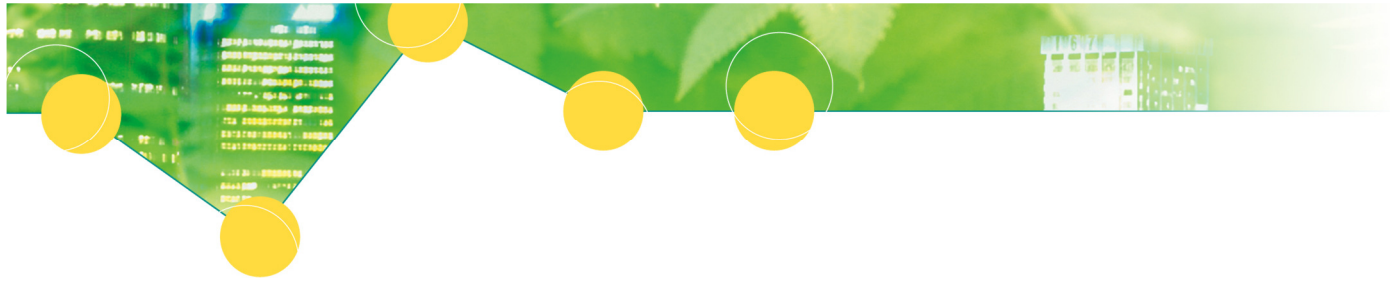


(Creating Public Value. Mark H Moore.
1995 Harvard Univ Press and Tom Bentley
ANZOG)



Thankyou

Mark Boyd
mark.boyd@iclei.org



I.C.L.E.I

**Local
Governments
for Sustainability**