A Systems Approach to Preventative Health.

What is needed? What are the gaps? What are the barriers?

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Prevention System(s) and Systems Approach

- Prevention System
- Systems Approach to Prevention
Components of projected $161 billion increase in total health system and aged care expenditure, Australia 2003 to 2033

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Expenditure (billion dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume per case</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ageing</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment proportion</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining disease rates</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qld CHO Report 2010
Source: AIHW Disease expenditure projection model.

Figure 8: Decomposition of projected change in expenditure for cardiovascular disease
Prevention Systems (s)
Principles for Prevention System

- Problem Definition
- Problem Analysis – Increasingly Complex
- It’s a long Journey, not a Happening.
- Needs to be Research Informed
- Needs Sustained Effort and Resources
- Usually Requires Coalitions and Collaborations of Interest
- Public and Political Commitment
Current Prevention ‘System’

Weaknesses

› Reflects the broader health system
  - Fragmented
  - Loosely coordinated
  - Multiple and discontinuous funding sources
› Largely communicable disease focussed
› Largely health system focussed
› Poor Continuity of Effort
Current Prevention ‘System’

Strengths

› Committed Individuals
› Existing infrastructure
› Strong NGO sector
› Flexibility thru necessity
› History of Creativity
General Strategies

National Preventative Health Taskforce 2010

1. Shared responsibility – developing strategic partnerships
2. Act early and throughout life
3. Engage communities
4. Influence markets and develop connected and coherent policies
5. Reduce inequity through targeting disadvantage
6. Indigenous Australians – contribute to ‘Close the Gap’
7. Refocus primary healthcare towards prevention
Establishment of the National Prevention Agency (NPA)

- Expert, cross-sectoral Board of Governance
- Provides a national clearing house for the monitoring and evaluation of national policies and programs in preventative health
- Publishes annual reports on the state of preventative health
- Advises COAG, through the Australian Health Ministers Conference (AHMC), on national priorities and options for preventative health
- Administers national programs, facilitates national partnerships and advises on national infrastructure for surveillance, monitoring, research and evaluation, as charged by AHMC
- Web-based clearing house/register for organisational policies, plans and achievements in order to share good practice across the country
- Commission/conduct surveys of activities undertaken by different sectors, and the barriers to and enablers of action, and to report on these
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

National Preventative Health Taskforce 2010

› Social marketing
  - Dose intensity consistency, duration? What, how, where, whom, how long?

› Data, surveillance and monitoring
  - What will best inform program directions?

› National research infrastructure
  - What are our strengths and weakness?

› Workforce development
  - Who is the workforce for NCD prevention?

› Future funding models for prevention
What have we learnt from the Australian National Preventative Health Agency (and predecessors)?
- Should its remit be limited or broadened?
- What does a national agency do well?
- Are the efficiencies from national approaches real (ised)?
- Does it make any difference unless program integrity can be maintained?

What are the alternatives?
Systems Thinking and Prevention
Principles of Systemic Thinking and Acting

› An understanding of interrelationships

› A commitment to multiple perspectives

› An awareness of boundaries

Thinking and Acting Systemically

Step 1: Describing and Analyzing Situations

Step 2: Changing and Managing Situations

Step 3: Learning about (and From) Situations
- understand changes, change understanding

What does this mean?

1. Understand the Problem and Context (Diagnostic)
2. Identify Intervention Points and Options
3. Identify Potential Impact
   - (Effectiveness, Risks, Equity, Benefit-Cost)
4. Identify Potential Achievability under Different Settings
   - (Political, Investment Level, Scaling, Dose)
5. Understand the Players and Interactions
6. Implement, Learn, Change
   - (understanding, action, outcomes)
Today the administration announced a program of war, increased surveillance of citizens, massive deficits, and tax cuts.

MMM... tax cuts.

© 2002 Stivers
Butland B et al.
Foresight Tackling
Obesities: Future
Choices –Project report
2007.
FIGURE 1: The complex interactions between the elements of the Knowledge Nation
Thank-you for Listening

Gauatau Ural (Magpie Geese). Dennis Nona, Badu Island, Torres Straits B.1973