

Developing progress measures towards public health and wellbeing outcomes

Project summary

Improving public health and wellbeing, and achieving related targets, can take many years and requires concerted and collective effort across a range of sectors. Measuring progress in the shorter term provides feedback on whether we are on track to achieving long term population outcomes and targets. Measures of progress can be used at state and local levels to monitor the impact of collective effort and guide prevention and health promotion focused on keeping Victorians healthy.

This project aims to develop a suite of measures of progress of the changes needed to achieve population outcomes for a limited number of priorities of the [Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015–2019](#). The plan identifies priorities and platforms for change to achieve improvement in public health and wellbeing. The progress measures will have a 'line of sight' to specific outcome measures in the [Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework](#). The framework defines how population health and wellbeing outcomes will be measured and monitored, and includes targets to which the government has committed, generally for achievement by 2025. Reporting on the outcomes framework will occur every third year of the four year public health and wellbeing planning cycle, with the first report due in 2018.

Defining progress measures

Progress measures are outcomes focussed measures of development, advancement or improvement towards population level outcomes. They are measures of evidence-informed changes that contribute substantially to reaching the desired health and wellbeing outcomes. Progress measures will enable reporting of achievements in what needs to change, in contrast to reporting against how the changes are achieved.

Progress measures are:

- evidence-informed: there is an established evidence base that change in the progress measure is an intermediate step towards achievement of a public health and wellbeing outcome
- result from collective impact: change is a result of collective effort of stakeholders acting together
- achievable: amenable to evidence based intervention
- measurable: measureable at a state and/or local level to demonstrate change in the short term (6-24 months)
- understandable: meaningful to, and likely to be perceived as important by the public and stakeholders
- robust: statistically appropriate and fit for purpose.

Using progress measures

Progress measures can be used to provide more immediate feedback on how our collective efforts are tracking against outcomes. This feedback can be used to inform state and local level action, policy and planning. Monitoring progress at short term intervals will provide opportunities to review collective effort and alter or change actions.

Progress measures can be used by state and local government, health services, agencies funded to deliver integrated health promotion, and other organisations involved in improving population health and wellbeing outcomes.

Developing progress measures

This project will build on the work done by numerous agencies and partnerships across Victoria that have developed or are currently developing measures for local area assessment of population health and wellbeing gains.

Progress measures will be developed through an iterative approach with a range of key stakeholders. A number of think tanks will be held, each focusing on a selected priority area from the *Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015–2019*. The think tanks will be held in metropolitan and regional locations with a small number of invited partners.

Initially the project will focus on the priority of Healthier eating and active living – with the potential to develop progress measures for other priorities at a later time.

Progress measures will be assessed for the availability of data to assess inequalities – by geographic location (local government area, metropolitan/regional), by socioeconomic status, and for particular population groups.

The final draft suite of progress measures will be available for comment prior to finalisation.

Timelines

The think tanks will be held between August – December 2017. The draft suite of progress measures will be made available towards the end of 2017, with feedback due in January 2018. The final suite of progress measures and data dictionary will be available in early 2018.

Further information

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