A learning by Doing Approach to HIA

Katie Hirono & Fiona Haigh

Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation
What is HIA?

A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

Source: WHO Gothenburg consensus paper, 1999
Why do HIA?

HIA aims to inform and influence decision-making to enhance the positive impacts of any decision and reduce (or eliminate) any negative impacts.

IMPACT 2005
Local Population Health Department Collaboration

• Goal: Build HIA capacity in organisations in SW Sydney
  – Learn how these other organisations work, how HIA can fit with them, their role and influence on determinants of health.
  – Build relationships with people and organisations with aim of going beyond HIA training
Learning by Doing

Goal: Develop the knowledge and skills of participants in Health Impact Assessment

Objectives:

✓ Understand each of the steps of HIA and where and how equity is considered
✓ Determine when and whether HIA is appropriate
✓ Carry out each step and complete an HIA
✓ Describe HIA and its roles in improving health and health equity
✓ Describe outcomes that can be achieved by carrying out HIA
✓ Reflect on how HIA fits with professional practice, organisation and identify future directions
HIA LBD Action Based Learning Approach

Learn

Plan

Act

Reflect, review and share
Training Outline

Day One
- Introduction to HIA
- Screening
- Scoping

Day Two
- Identification
- Assessment

Day Three
- Recommendations
- Reporting
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Pre training meetings
- Scoping Workshop
- Collecting and assessing evidence
- Writing up HIA report

Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity
Learning about and carrying out an HIA

- Linking to organisational structures and practices
- Making connections and building relationships
- Collective learning and sharing of experiences
Why do a Learning by Doing approach to HIA?

• Benefits to participants – increase skills, knowledge and confidence. Also lead to better external and internal partnerships.
Why do a Learning by Doing approach to HIA?

Benefits the process – involvement of stakeholders in HIA process leads to better outcomes.
Evaluation of LbD

- Online survey of LbD participants
- Semi-structured interviews with 6 participants

Research Questions:
1. Did participants gain knowledge and skills from participating in the program?
2. Did the program lead to increased capacity for the involved organizations to do HIAs?
3. Which components of the program were most important for increasing capacity to do HIAs?
4. Did the training adequately instruct participants in HIA?
Evaluation of LbD - Challenges

Expectations about time and capacity
Evaluation of LbD - Challenges

Building trust – planners worry that HIA would only find negative things
Evaluation of LbD – Benefits

Participants gained knowledge, skills and confidence
Evaluation of LbD- Benefits

Improved relationships: within organisation, with outside partners
Evaluation of LbD - Benefits

Increased capacity to do HIA
“...it’s not just learning...you know, sitting there, listening to lectures and not applying it. Like, I’m the type of person that I have to apply it straightaway, otherwise I’ll lose it...I wouldn’t do it without the learning by doing path, I wouldn’t ...I don’t think it would stick...unless you apply the skills straightaway, I don’t think people would remember, and they wouldn’t use it. They wouldn’t feel confident.”
Thank you!

Questions?