Health impact assessment and public policy workshop

3rd Asia Pacific HIA conference: Dunedin, New Zealand

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Aims of the workshop:
1. to identify and discuss issues underpinning HIA as a public policy intervention, based on your experience
2. to incorporate these critically into designing programs of work to progress HIA as a public policy intervention – the ‘do’s and don’ts’ of HIA for HPP
3. to provide some collective wisdom from round the world to inform my PhD on the topic

Overarching PhD question:
What is the relationship between HIA and (healthy) public policy?
The problem

HPP (or HiAP). Where HIA sits in this is not yet clear. For some, HIA has become an end in itself rather than a means to an end. Attention for these people is shifting back to government or macro level policy. But not much action has taken place. Particularly at central.

Since the 1990's HIA is one of the main HPP action arms and most recently, health in all policies. The 1970's - Intersectoral action for health, healthy public policy. Since the 1980's. Since the 1970's - Intersectoral action for health, healthy public policy.
(Wiseman et al, 2006: p. 89)

analyzing either implementation or institutionalization of HIA.

there is currently no established conceptual framework for

circumstances cannot be expected everywhere. However,

leadership, administration and communities, but these

"If not institutionalized, HIAs will depend on proactive political

For example, HIA is a pragmatic and developing approach, so supporting theory

descriptive - limited research into actual practice

The literature is normative ("should"); rather than "did" or

The problem extended to research
Some ideas about what happens in practice

HIAs for public policy programs have been developed all over the world. However, the success of these is subject to a feedback loop (or 'mess').

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Another way of looking at the mess (Bowen and Zwi, 2005)
public policy (Gagnon et al. 2007)
OR - Advocacy coalition framework for healthy
PHD approach

- Two phases
  - Phase one: develop a framework through interviews, other qualitative approaches, documentary analysis, and theory
  - Phase two: test and further refine the framework in actual case studies
- Documentation analysis, and theory
- Interviews, other qualitative approaches, and theoretical
The bare bones of the framework

- Context + "trigger" = achievement

- Context + mechanism = outcome

This configuration is called:

(Pawson and Tilley, 1997)

Ref: Pawson and Tilley, 1997