Utilising HIA for planning rural health services in New South Wales, Australia

Karla Calleja
Service Planner,
Greater Southern Area Health Service,
New South Wales, Australia

Better health for rural people
Overview of presentation

- Setting the scene
- The HIA project
- Driving issues
- Application to service planning
- Lessons learnt
  - What works? What doesn’t?
Greater Southern Area Health Service

- GSAHS state health service in southern NSW, Australia
- Hospital, public health, health promotion services
- 166,000 sq km
- 468,000 residents
Planning in GSAHS

• Support Executive and staff to meet the current and future health service needs of the community

• Development of service plans
  – Review population information
  – Current and projected demand
  – Local context
  – Developed in consultation with managers, staff and community members
Pressing challenges

- Delivering safe services
- Lack of workforce
- External agency nursing staff
- Appropriate services vs. history
- Small hospitals with low activity
| RA44-7 | 14/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | N | Y | - | 1240 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA47 | 14/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | U | Y | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA44-6 | 10/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA44-5 | 10/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA44-4 | 10/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA44-3 | 10/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA44-2 | 10/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
| RA44-1 | 10/6/12 10 20 | 5 | Finger pain | F | N | Y | N | 1320 | - | 3 | - | - |
The HIA project

- Partnership with CHETRE
- Development of proposal
- Recommending changes to service models
  - Refocus on primary care
  - Close 3 EDs after hrs
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Expand CH services
  - Use of Telehealth and IT
What works?

• Use of recommendations
  – Non threatening way to ‘test’ rec’s
  – Modify
  – Unintended impacts
  – Equity

• Use of evidence
  – Consideration of wider evidence base
  – Generation of new evidence
  – Different form of consultation
More of what works!

- HIA group
  - Structure
  - with large group of stakeholders
- Staying flexible!
  - Especially when environment changes around you
- Dedicated workforce
- HIA expert
What doesn’t work?

• Size of HIA group
• Large stakeholder group
  – Organising ‘face to face’ difficult
  – Dispersed workforce
• DATA!
• Timeframes
Things we’re not sure about!

• Changing political environment
• Major organisational changes
• Timeframes
  – Flexible or inflexible?
• HIA- The right methodology?
• Community consultation?
Thankyou!