Partnership Approach in Health Impact Assessment Development

Hastings District Council & Hawke’s Bay District Health Board
Initial Engagement | First Steps

Presented at Hastings District Council

Advocacy Training

Split into distinct workshops

Mentoring

Dawne Mackay Flaxmere Town Centre Urban Design
This document establishes strong links between the urban form & infrastructure of a place and the health of its community

Recommends the health sector support the development of:

- Urban infrastructure that promotes active transport and other positive health outcomes
- Urban form which can help create a sense of place.

Document discusses survey of NZ planners which identified concerns between the lack of knowledge about the links between urban planning and health

The HIA process is an opportunity to bridge this gap
Positive Correlation between HIA & Urban Design

Best practice urban design & planning seeks to maximise benefits by ensuring inputs are integrated.

HIA seeks to consider wider flow on effects of a plan or proposal on the health of a community.

Good planning should also ensure that wider flow on effects are positive.
Case Study
Flaxmere Town Centre Urban Design Framework Proposal
Flaxmere | The Demographics

Flaxmere has a young population

Flaxmere has a low annual household income

Age Distribution Comparison (Census 2006)
Flaxmere has a high proportion of Maori & Pacific people

Flaxmere as a whole has a high deprivation index (10)
Flaxmere Urban Design Framework

Seeks to achieve the vision of the Flaxmere Community Plan by establishing a land use planning framework for a better town centre
Flaxmere Urban Design Framework

The Framework seeks to enhance the town centre to:

- Access & connectivity
- Safety & vitality
- Sense of Place
- Diversity
- Sustainability
Urban Design Framework
4 recommended options all based on same key principals

Option 1 | Village Green

Option 4 | Diverted Main Street
Key points of HIA undertaken

- Extended timeframes
- Importance of “keeping in touch”
- Working with the community
- Reciprocal Sharing of Knowledge
- Fluid
Engaging with Tangata Whenua HIA Consultation

Appropriateness of Venue for consultation – Te Aranga Marae

Importance of gaining understanding of dimension of spirituality and wellbeing with regards to the subject
HIA Recommendations

- Quality Urban Design
- Sense of Place
- Te Aranga Maori Cultural Landscape Design Strategy
- Quality Design for Housing
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
Recommendations continued...

- HDC explore economic & employment opportunities
- Aware of potential increase in Fast Food & Alcohol outlets
- Increase public transport & active movement options
- Benchmark current health & wellbeing indicators & monitor after implementation
Purpose: to plan the future growth of Hawke’s Bay’s main urban areas over the next 30 years.

General Direction
Promote consolidation of and increased residential densities in existing urban areas to:

• Greater transport sustainability
• Protect fertile soils
• Reduce urban sprawl

Provide for some expansion of existing urban areas in the most sustainable locations
Heretaunga Plains Urban Design Strategy

- Referred to as HPUDS
- Requested to do HIA
- Well received
- Recommendations incorporated into implementation plan
HDC Perspective on undertaking the HIA | Benefits

- Different Perspective in considering wider effects and costs & benefits of plans
- Additional community consultation increasing robustness of plans
- HIA report useful reference material for RMA processes (section 32)
- Recommendations form a useful checklist to guide implementation
- In this case endorsement of plans and identification of areas for improvement
General Benefits

Positive relationships developed between participating organisations

New relationships formed by both organisations through stakeholder consultation

Good professional development for staff involved
Henare’s Perspective

• As member of community and tangata whenua...

• As a Hastings District Councillor...
When to present HIA’s to Local Authority

• Working with the HIA when plans still being prepared is best. This allows a partnership approach between DHB and Council.

• Preparing HIA and lodging as a submission as in the case of HPUDS results in the HIA ‘just’ having the status of a submission, of which it could be one of many.

• Time and project constraints will be the main determinant of when HIA is presented. An HIA as a submission is still much better than no HIA.
Ideal time to present?

Difficult to know when it is right to present

Need input from Council colleagues to guide

Still learning
Questions for Discussion

1. Any Questions from the Presentation?
2. Discussion on how to embed the HIA process as a ‘business as usual’ part of policy development for Council’s and other organisations?
3. Shared experiences or ideas on the best methods for engaging and getting good attendance at HIA consultation workshops?
Closing Waiata – Tu Tira Mai Nga Iwi

Tu tira mai nga iwi
Tatou tatou e
Tu tira mai nga iwi
Tatou tatou e
Whaia te maramatanga
Me te aroha
E nga iwi
Kia tapatahi
Kia kotahi ra
Tatou, tatou e...
Tatou, tatou e

Tatou, tatou e...
“We are together as one…”