

The Role of the Health System in Reducing Health Inequity

Wednesday 29 June



Equity focused health impact assessment

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Never Stand Still

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Purpose of this session

- Overview of equity focused health impact assessment (EFHIA)
- Examples of EFHIAs
- Effectiveness of EFHIAs – what works
- Opportunities, barriers and considerations within health systems



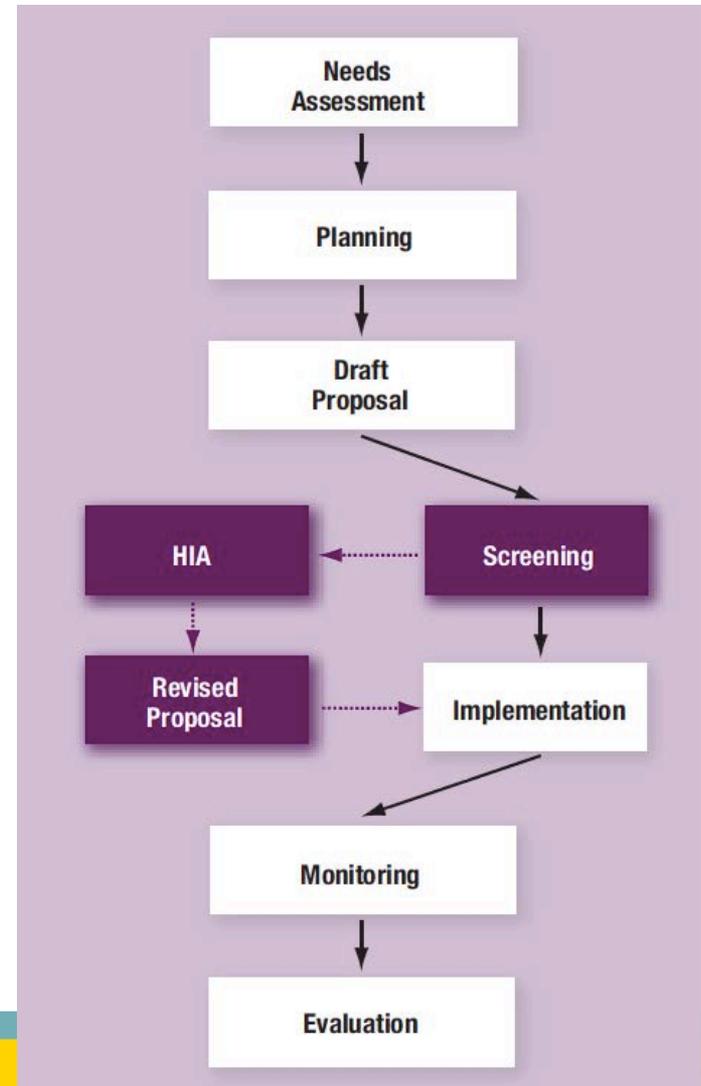
Equity Focused Health Impact Assessment

ACHEIA

**Equity-Focused
Health Impact Assessment
Framework**

Mary Mahoney
Sarah Simpson
Elizabeth Harris
Rosemary Aldrich
Jenny Stewart Williams

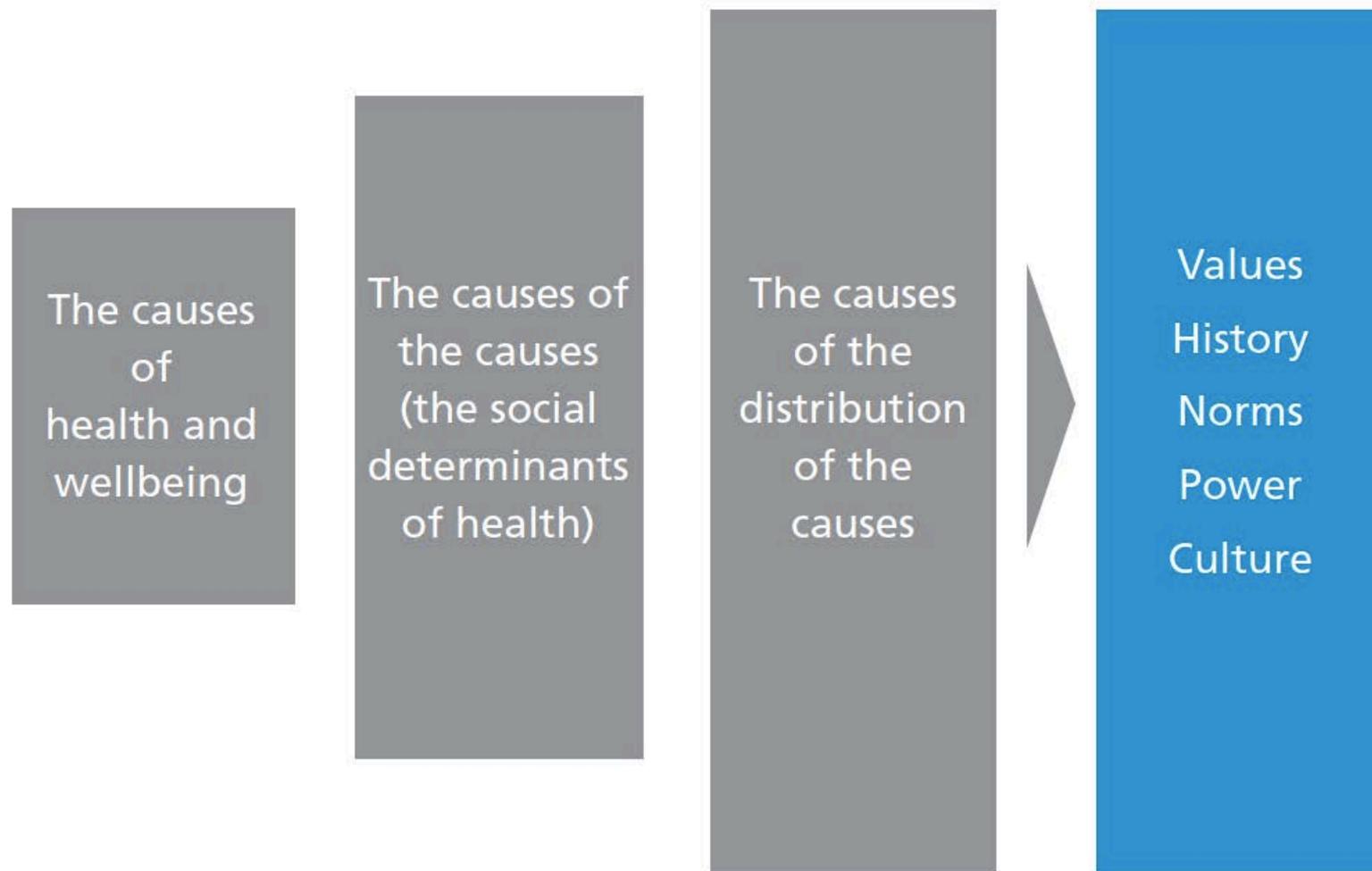
Australasian Collaboration for Health Equity Impact Assessment



Considering equity: Differential impacts



Considering equity: Determinants of health inequity

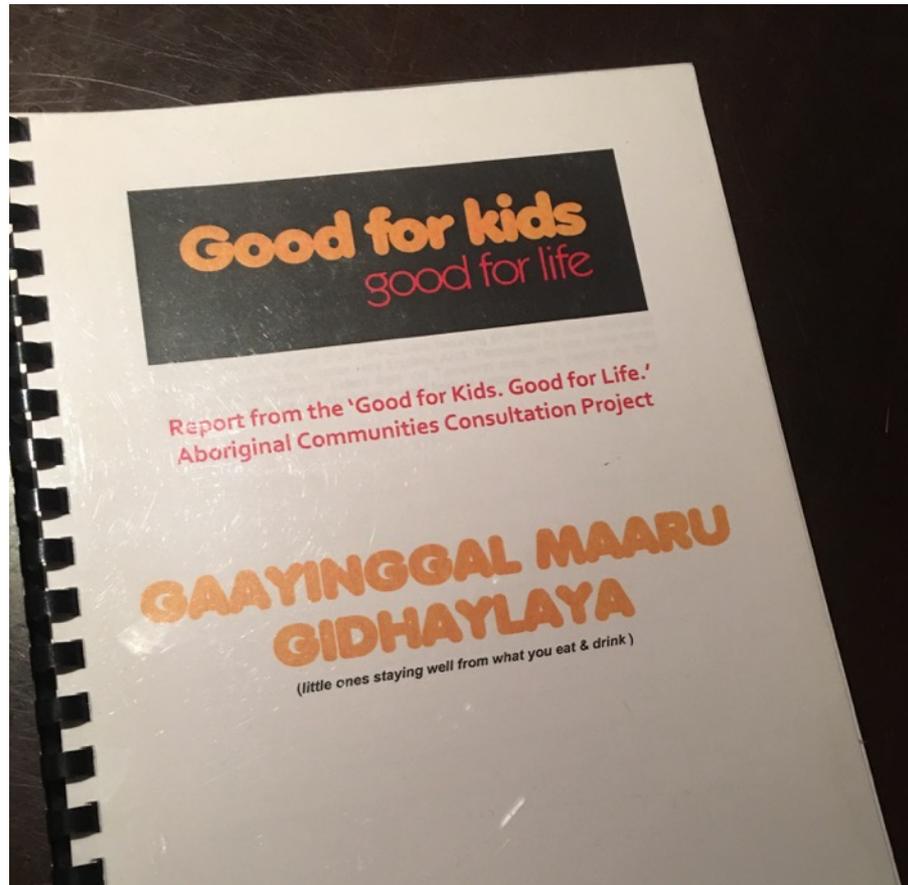




Example: VicHealth EFHIA of the Walk to School Program 2016



Example: EFHIA of the Aboriginal Good for Kids, Good for Life Program Activities



Example: NSW Australian Better Health Initiative Implementation Plan EFHIA

International Journal
for Equity in Health

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A rapid equity focused health impact assessment of a policy implementation plan: An Australian case study and impact evaluation

Effectiveness: What works and what doesn't

What works

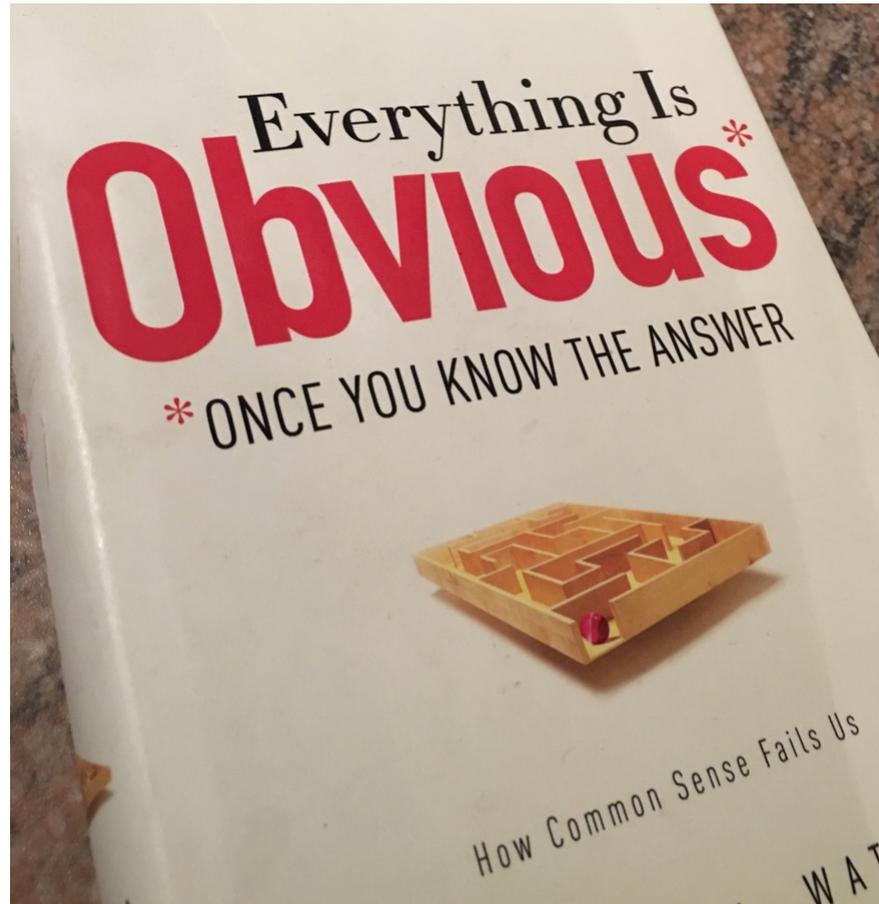
- Structured process
- EFHIA as a process for learning
 - Technical
 - Conceptual
 - Social
- Timeliness
- Identifying assumptions*
- Equity has cross-sectoral relevance*

What doesn't

- Equity adds an additional layer of conceptual complexity*
- Lack of a shared understanding about the goals of the EFHIA
- Lack of organisational commitment
- Challenging values and differential impacts*

* Both enablers and barriers depending on context

The overarching challenge



Discussion

- Your experience and insights
- What are the opportunities for EFHIA's use?
- What are the challenges?
- Are there related approaches we should be considering?
- Is there a role of EFHIA in the health system?



Strategies/actions/ideas from the workshop

- It is possible to incorporate EFHI into planning at LHD/state level but
 - needs champions
 - needs to be regarded as core business.
- Transparency/trade-offs within EFHIAs aren't straightforward
 - often take the form of short term pain for long term gain.
- An activity that would advance EFHIA/health equity more generally
 - identify the prevention activities where equity gains can be made or where there are gaps
 - don't focus solely on intractable issues or solely on greatest need, think about where change can occur as well.
- EFHIA should be considered a tool for “bringing together narratives and numbers”
 - demonstrating need/relevance at a practical/local/implementation/narrative level and aligning with population/macro/numbers level.
- Is there a role for Equity Focused Health System Impact Assessment?
 - this would also be about recognising where we can make gains.

