



Victorian Healthcare
Association

Member Bulletin

PREVENTION COMMUNITY MODEL: STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

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Dear Member,

The Department of Health recently released the *Prevention Community Model: Standards and Guidelines* document.

The document builds on previous releases about the Prevention Community Model and expands in greater detail the legislative and accountability context, governance mechanisms, guidelines for partnership building and engagement, other requirements for participating consortia, and detailed position descriptions for all new prevention workforce positions.

The model is a key element in Victoria's preventive health system, and is a joint undertaking with the Commonwealth Government under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (NPAPH).

The Victorian implementation of the NPAPH:

- Focuses on encouraging and supporting healthy lifestyles, increasing exercise and healthy food consumption, and decreasing alcohol and cigarette consumption
- Is an early implementation of a broader preventive health system in Victoria, linked closely to the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015*
- Will be evidence and theory based, assisted by the Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science (CEIPS)
- Will be managed under a governance model inclusive of key partners
- Will include the establishment of partner forums, networks, and communities of practice to aid communication and engagement with and between stakeholders
- Represents \$81.6 million of Commonwealth funding over six years, in addition to state-based contributions

The fourteen participating communities were selected using data from the Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS), and have been matched with undisclosed control communities, in order to measure and compare the efficacy of the model and its programs.

Consortiums will be led by local government as funds recipients and managers; however it is noted that for many local government areas (LGAs), intensive prevention efforts that extend beyond physical environments, and into settings where people spend much of their time, will be a new experience. With this in mind, LGAs will be required to build partnerships with local organisations which have experience in prevention and population health programs.

While the Department has not placed itself as an active member within the consortium of agencies involved, it does state that it will provide guidance on the establishment and operation of partnerships between organisations, and will monitor their effectiveness.

The Department has established a Victorian Prevention and Population Advisory Board, chaired by the Department secretary, to provide high-level advice and recommendations on state-wide prevention efforts. A Prevention Community Model Initiative Group will be established, with responsibility for specific oversight and direction for implementation and evaluation of programs.

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For further details, the document can be accessed from the Department of Health's website at:
<http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Prevention-Community-Model:-Standards-and-Guidelines>.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 9094 7777.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Carr', is positioned below the text 'Kind regards,'.

Trevor Carr
Chief Executive



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