

**Emerging issues for population
health in Qld:
Implications for research**

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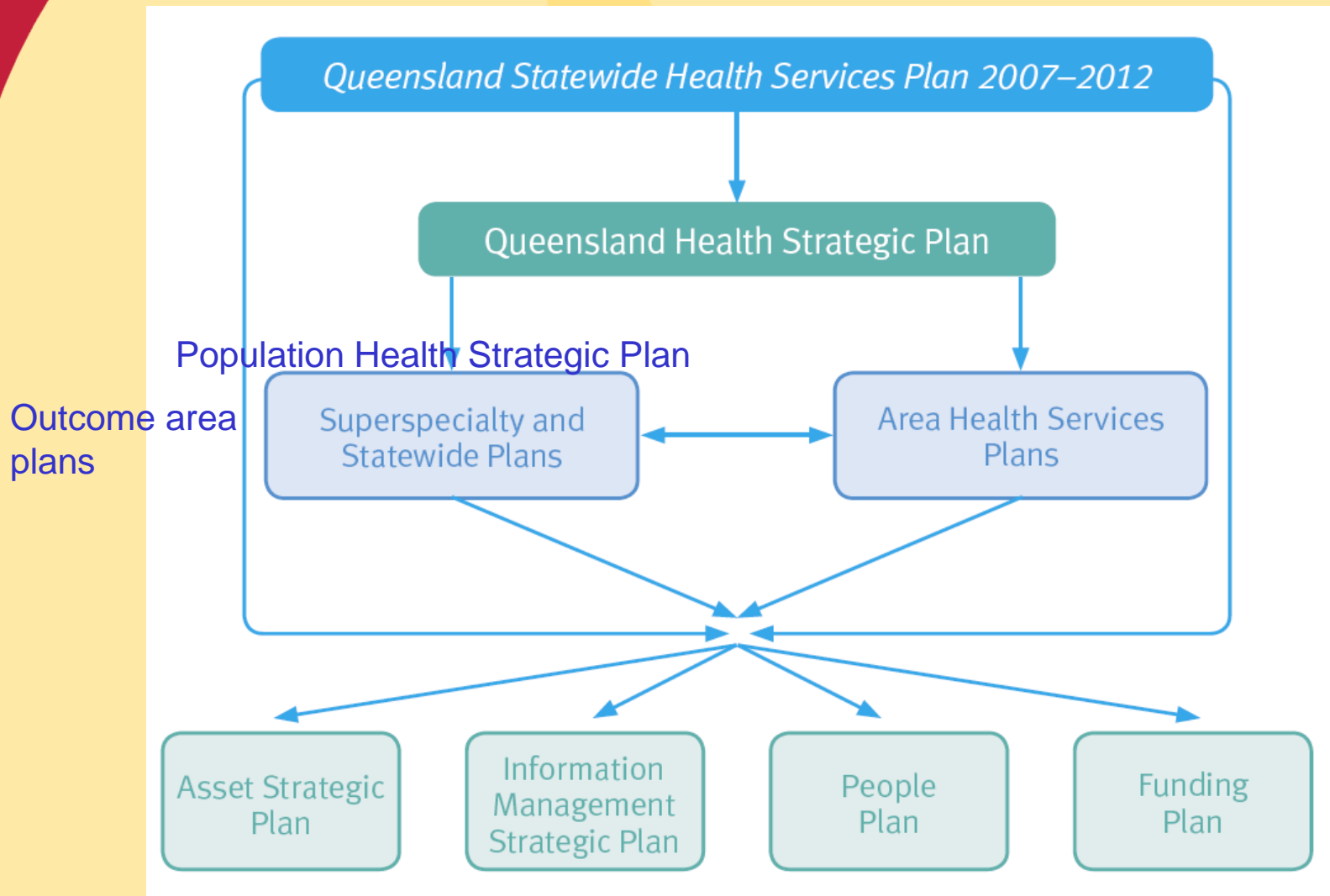
QCPH seminar – 17 May 2007



Queensland Government

Queensland **Health**

Qld Health planning framework



Qld Statewide Health Services Plan

- Population Health is a key component of the Statewide Health Services Plan
- Framework to guide health system reform over 5 years
- Provides strategic direction for health service planning and delivery
- Outlines new models of service delivery
- Informs capital, workforce and infrastructure requirements

Qld Statewide Health Services Plan

- Scope:
 - Whole of sector scope, not just Queensland Health
- 2 major reform areas:
 - Improving access to safe and sustainable services
 - Better meeting people's health needs across the health continuum

Population Health Strategic Plan

- Articulates the strategic agenda for population health for the next five years and major bodies of work to progress
- Acts as a marketing tool to promote population health, and its role within QH and the health continuum
- Key audiences:
 - Internal (PH staff, EMT, QH staff)
 - External (other partners)
- Aligns with Qld Statewide Health Services Plan and the draft Qld Health Strategic Plan

Population health principles

- Focus on populations
- Commit to address health inequalities
- Work in partnership
- Commit to quality and continual improvement
- Be accountable for resources and actions

This requires:

- Evidence-based strategies
- Strong focus on applied research which informs policy and practice

Key areas for reform

- 2 categories of strategic directions:
 - Service development and enhancement
 - System enablers

Strategic directions – service development & enhancement priorities

1. Address the burden of chronic disease and cancer
2. Invest in actions to address priority population issues at critical life stages
3. Assess and respond effectively to population health threats
4. Achieve a safe and fluoridated water supply
5. Facilitate the creation of healthy physical and social environments

Research priorities:

Address the burden of chronic disease and cancer

- Primary and secondary prevention among A&TSI people – particularly in urban settings
 - Nutrition, physical activity, alcohol and smoking
- Systematic application of audits/CQI in primary health care setting – Remote (ABCDE project), and urban/regional
- Skin cancer screening
- Impact of HPV vaccine on cervical cancer screening policy and new screening modes

Research priorities: Actions to address priority population issues at critical life stages

- Develop and evaluate falls prevention across the continuum
- Application of evaluated community-based falls prevention programs across a range of different community settings
- Prevention of STIs among young people – social trends, social marketing

Research priorities:

Actions to address priority population issues at critical life stages

- New approaches to prevention of hepatitis C among injecting drug users or those contemplating injecting
- Mental health promotion programs targeting A&TSI people – what works?
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of a multi-strategy approach to mental health promotion

Research priorities:

Respond to population health threats

- Influenza pandemic – improved hygiene and social distancing – how do we achieve this today?
- Mosquito borne diseases
 - Excellent work already on mosquito traps, new models of *A. aegypti* control.
 - More needed particularly in SE Qld setting – implications of rainwater tanks, climate change

Research priorities:

Respond to population health threats

- Toxicology and chemical risks
 - Driven by resources boom, growth in mining sector, encroachment of urban development onto industrial sites, new industries, etc
 - Research capability is strongly linked to response capability as area of specialised expertise
 - Potential for links with industry such as mining sector
- HIV/AIDS etc in Torres Strait
 - Approaches to social marketing in different cultural settings (sexual health, mosquito control)

Research priorities:

Safe and fluoridated water supply

- Questions about 'mass medication' such as fluoride, folate in bread. Policy/social research about community attitudes to this approach and acceptability of the approach as well as broader policy implications

Research priorities:

Healthy physical and social environments

- Broader policy implications of considering health across all policy platforms
- How do we weigh one health impact (eg. employment) vs another?
- How do we evaluate the effectiveness of health impact assessment and other approaches?
- How do we build capability in health impact assessment (service model)?
- Enhanced development and collection of health status and health determinants, particularly at sub-population level

Strategic directions – system enablers

- 1.** Achieve and progress a shared agenda for PH and primary prevention with key partners
- 2.** Enhance the effectiveness and quality of our operations within a decentralised organisational structure
- 3.** Increase investment in the Prevention, Promotion and Protection (PPP) Program

Strategic directions – system enablers

4. Enhance collection and use of information to support decision-making and practice
5. Attract, develop and retain a skilled population health workforce
6. Invest in actions to reduce health inequalities

Research priorities:

Population health workforce

- Routine development of service models for emergent population health functions
- Definition of skill sets and competencies to assist skills providers to better understand the needs of PH, eg. skill sets for new practitioner types/roles

Research priorities:

Actions to reduce health inequalities

- Social determinants of health document
- Now need to build on evidence base
 - What works, and how do we build on our programs so that they are effective – lower Socio-economic status, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, etc.
 - Evaluation of current approaches particularly focusing on disadvantaged groups

Approaches to Population Health research

- **Health systems research**
 - Service models
 - Scaling up of 'pilot projects' – how do we ensure the success on a broader scale?
 - Improving primary health care management and early intervention in chronic disease
 - Career structures and new workforce models for population health

Approaches to Population Health research

- **Health and social policy research**
 - Health impact of broader policy agenda
 - Broader implications of ‘healthier public policy approaches’ and links to sustainability.
 - Impact of increasing gap between rich and poor and where are the levers to address?

Approaches to Population Health research

- **Applied research**
 - Health promotion development and evaluation, particularly for priority population groups
 - New models for surveillance for risk factors, etc
 - Hepatitis C prevention, drug and alcohol, etc
 - Mosquito control
 - Toxicology
- **'Pure' research**
 - Eg. new vaccine development

Population health commitment

- Improved contribution to evidence base and systematic adoption of evidence-based strategies into practice
- Alignment of Health Promotion Qld applied research agenda with departmental requirements and improved uptake of findings
- Systematic undertaking of appropriate monitoring and evaluation of all PH initiatives

Population health commitment

- Establishment of a peer-reviewed publication to communicate nationally and internationally the good practice approaches used and successes attained
- Two yearly CHO reports which identify emerging health issues for the population and priority groups
- Strengthened relationships/linkages with universities and research institutes to influence an/or drive research agenda

Funding/Partnership opportunities

- Limited funding available in base budget (eg HPQ)
- Some opportunities to fund action-based research as part of program implementation
- Partnership/ARC grants
- Focus on priority populations also a focus for NHMRC
- Collaborative research, QH providing data source, etc
- Potential opportunities for partnership with industry, etc