



Your Link to Health + Social Data

media kit

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Project Partners



Project Background

The Southern Metropolitan Region Community Planner's Network is a consortium of local government social and community planners across Southern Melbourne who collaborates on planning issues relating to community needs.

The main project aim is to increase awareness and provide access to health and social data and provide a platform for evidence based health, social and service planning on a local level.

This project was supported by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (funding agency), the Department of Human Services – Southern Metropolitan Region, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the City of Greater Dandenong in an advisory role.

The project partners are: City of Casey, City of Glen Eira, Cardinia Shire, Bayside City, Mornington Peninsula Shire, City of Port Phillip, City of Stonnington, City of Kingston and Frankston City.

The Local Area Planning Support Program is part of the Government's social policy action plan A Fairer Victoria, which has allocated funds over three years to support Victoria's local governments to address issues of disadvantage, in particular those that face resource constraints and planning related difficulties.

The program sought to enhance local governments' responses to these challenges by improving local area planning capabilities and developing a data management and sharing framework between the State and local governments.

Project Overview

The Southern Metro Health + Social Data project was delivered in three stages:

1. Investigation & Consultation (appraising sources of information)
2. Methodology & Social + Health Data Pack (purchasing and organising data)
3. Implementation, Marketing and Training.

A wide range of data (social, health, wellbeing and other selected data types) held by various State Government departments and other organisations/agencies, was investigated.

In the course of this stage, the range of data sources; their nature, content, strengths and limitations; and how the information is currently accessible, was documented. In consultation with the Southern Region Social Planners Network, the particular needs of local government and community groups were identified.

These stages have been intertwined throughout, with the feedback from the consultation feeding into the final appraisal of data sources, and leading to further exploration regarding data sources in specific areas of information sought by local government.

The exploration and consultation stages have raised several key issues with existing data sets, which are discussed individually in the project report.

Data Pack

The sheer scope of the range of data identified, means that the desire of researchers for a 'one stop shop' cannot be fully met. There is a wide range of standalone datasets available, and it has always been a stated goal of this project to not duplicate existing accessible data. Key examples of this would be the Burden of Disease data website and the VLGA social statistics library. However, the data compiled also includes a number of links which will be included on the website, meaning that the end product will serve as a comprehensive resource and portal for researchers.

The project consortium identified a range of 'core' data priorities and developed a Social + Health Data Pack which includes the following data sets:

- Hospital admissions by age by major diagnosis
- Emergency presentations by diagnosis by age
- Injury by cause
- Centrelink payments by payment type
- Maternal and child health indicators
- Family violence incidents per year
- Car accident casualties
- Diabetes registrations
- Child dental health
- Immunisation by age cohorts
- Customised census data - Cultural diversity (immigration) by language and by birthplace.

Customised cultural diversity data has been obtained for the project, with some areas (e.g. new arrivals) already covered by existing online data sources.

Achievements

As a result of this project, the following products and outputs were achieved:

1. Stage Reports and Feasibility Study
2. Data Pack
3. Data Guidelines
4. Branding + Promotional Flyer
5. Regional Data Snapshot
6. Website + CD Pack
7. Training Sessions.

The project products and outputs will be available to the public through the AccessPoint website at www.MelbourneAccessPoint.com

The training sessions for social planners and local community stakeholders are scheduled as follows:

- Stonnington, 5 May 2008
- Frankston, 12 May 2008
- Casey, 28 May 2008

To RSVP for any session, go to www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/accesspoint