

Integrated theme: Influencing policy



Our new Policy Development Office is taking a coordinated approach to influencing health promotion policy that supports our strategic imperatives.

Drawing on the expertise that sits within VicHealth and scanning the external policy environment, the Policy Development Office puts the widest policy lens over our priority areas and hones in with policy-makers to build the next frontier in health promotion.

It is helping to drive bold new ways to address our health priorities by broadening our impact with others and embedding cutting-edge interventions into the Victorian Prevention System.

In its first year, the Policy Development Office has helped find the policy hooks to link up the many efforts across governments to build a stronger health prevention system. Smoking is a good example, where Victoria is now leading the way internationally with a smoking rate of 13% of the population compared with up to 19% in the UK.

AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORY

A highlight of the year was VicHealth being named a new World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Leadership in Health Promotion.

Reflecting Victoria's world-leading status as a source of expert advice and best practice in health promotion, our new role will strengthen our ability to support leadership in the Western Pacific Region in reducing preventable disease.

In the year ahead we look forward to working with our colleagues from Tonga and Vietnam as they develop health information and activities to tackle their most pressing health issues.

POLICY CONSULTATIONS + SUBMISSIONS

The Policy Development Office also translates the work of VicHealth both ways, so we understand what is going on around us, and how this best fits with enhancing Victoria's Prevention System.

A key part of our work is responding to proposed government programs, policy and legislation that have the potential to impact on health. This year the Policy Development Office coordinated a number of submissions, including the Senate Select Committee on Health; Senate Inquiry into domestic violence; Inquiry into the extent of income inequality in Australia; and a submission to the City of Melbourne draft walking plan.



“MAV has valued the partnership work with councils and VicHealth over many years, with the main focus in 2014 being on developing strategies to address the negative health impacts of discrimination on communities. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with VicHealth in priority areas for local government.”

ROB SPENCE
CEO, Municipal Association of Victoria