

Making Sense of Sustainability: What do we really mean by sustainability in relation to the Food For All Program?

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VicHealth and Food Security

- 2001-2002 - 2 local government demonstration food security projects
- 2005 - healthy eating food security investment plan
- 2005-2008 - FFA Phase 1: projects funded in 9 municipalities + other activities
- 2008-2010 - FFA Phase 2: projects funded in 6 municipalities + other activities

This presentation

1. What do we mean by sustainability?
2. What influences whether sustainability is achieved?
3. How are we assessing it?
4. What preliminary conclusions can we reach about the sustainability of the FFA Program in local government?

What do we mean by sustainability?

- The continuation of the project
- The on-going delivery of the benefits or outcomes
- The standardisation of project activities as normal organisational practice
- The incorporation of project goals and outcomes into the community

What influences whether sustainability is achieved?

- Factors in the Project
- Factors in the host organisation
- Factors in the external environment

1. In relation to the project itself

- Efficiency – was the project efficiently implemented?
- Effectiveness – was the project effective in reaching Program goals and objectives?
- Resources – were funds allocated to continue the project?

2. In relation to the host councils

1. Culture – values, mission, vision
2. Capacity – skills, knowledge, resources
3. Leadership – championship of food security goals at senior levels
4. Policy – that supports food security goals
5. Practice – that integrates food security goals into normal operations

3. In relation to the community or environment in which the projects operate

1. Culture
2. Capacity
3. Leadership
4. Policy
5. Practice

How are we going?

- Focus on the projects
 - Efficiently implemented? Yes with some significant challenges
 - Effective in terms of overall goals and objectives? Partial Some broad achievements in relation to specific
 - Continuing resource provision? Not as yet, though one Council has matched VicHealth funds to mid 2010

How are we going in relation to host councils?

1. Culture
2. Capacity
3. Leadership
4. Policy
5. Practice

How are we going in relation to communities?

- Culture
 1. Capacity
 2. Leadership
 3. Policy
 4. Practice

Conclusions

1. A broad lens required
2. It takes time to achieve sustainability
3. Significant resources are needed
4. Multi-pronged approach vital to achieve broadly defined sustainability
 - Project, host organisation and host community
 - External environment ie state or national level
5. Explicit focus on sustainability needed when planning pilot projects

- “In the Council there is greater recognition of food security as an issue that needs to be addressed as part of community health and wellbeing, as a social justice issue, and as an environmental sustainability issue. There is also greater recognition that this is an important issue for local government to take a lead role in.”

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