

Health Improvement Forums – Information Sheet

Overview and Purpose

The Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Board of Inquiry (“the Board”) is conducting Health Improvement Forums over five days being: 28 - 30 September, 13 October and 19 October 2015. Each day will comprise a number of Forums.

The Forums are being conducted as part of the Board’s inquiry into “short, medium and long term measures to improve the health of the Latrobe Valley communities having regard to any health impacts identified by the Board as being associated with the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire” (Term of Reference 7). The Board must report its findings and any recommendations to the Governor of Victoria in respect of this term of reference by 2 December 2015.

Between 9 February and 25 March 2014, the Hazelwood Mine Fire sent smoke and ash over Morwell and surrounding areas. The health of the Latrobe Valley communities was adversely affected in many ways, as detailed in the 2014 Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Report (<http://hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au/2014-inquiry>). These effects were exacerbated by the significant health vulnerabilities already present within the Latrobe Valley communities.

The aim of the Health Improvement Forums is to bring together relevant experts and community members to discuss the best ways to improve the health of the Latrobe Valley and to build consensus, where possible, as to how to move forward together. Participants have been selected based on the contribution the Board believes they can make to formulating measures to improve the health of the Latrobe Valley in particular areas. Participants include representatives from State and local government, local health providers and stakeholders and community members.

The process for each session will be constructive, consensus building and non-adversarial. There will be no cross-examination of any participant by lawyers.

Session Topics and Times:

The session topics and times for each Forum are:

1. **Chronic Disease Management (9.30am-4.45pm, 28 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by helping people with serious ongoing health conditions manage their illness well and prevent further complications – focusing on cardiovascular, cancers, diabetes, and respiratory disease.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by helping people with serious ongoing health conditions manage their illness well and prevent further complications – focusing on cardiovascular, cancers, diabetes, respiratory disease:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- a. Within the next two years;
- In the medium and longer term.

- 2. Health Behaviours (9.30am-4.45pm, 28 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by enabling healthy lifestyles through education, sport, health policies and creating healthy choices – focussing on smoking, nutrition and physical activity.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by enabling healthy lifestyles through education, sport, health policies and creating healthy choices – focusing on smoking, nutrition and physical activity:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.

- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- Within the next two years;
 - In the medium and longer term.

- 3. Mental Health (9.30am-4.45pm, 28 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by responding to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, drugs and alcohol use, and by promoting mental wellbeing.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by responding to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, drugs and alcohol use, and by promoting mental wellbeing:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- a. Within the next two years;
 - b. In the medium and longer term

- 4. Early Detection and High Risk Screening (9.30am-4.45pm, 29 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by picking up signs of chronic disease early to prevent further progression – focusing on raised blood pressure, sugar and cholesterol, and lung conditions.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by picking up signs of chronic disease early to prevent further progression – focusing on raised blood pressure, sugar and cholesterol, and lung conditions:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- a. Within the next two years;
 - b. In the medium and longer term

- 5. Health Workforce (9.30am-4.45pm, 29 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by recruiting and retaining suitable professionals to work locally – focusing on doctors, nurses, allied health and other health professionals.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by recruiting and retaining suitable professionals to work locally – focusing on doctors, nurses, allied health and other health professionals:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
 - a. Within the next two years;
 - b. In the medium and longer term.

- 6. Children and Youth (9.30am-4.45pm, 29 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by giving children and young people the best chance in life through health services, schools, and early childhood and youth services, etc.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by giving children and young people the best chance in life through health services, schools, and early childhood and youth services, etc:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;

- c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- a. Within the next two years;
 - b. In the medium and longer term.

7. Healthy Workplaces (9.30am-4.45pm, 30 September 2015): improving health in the Latrobe Valley by strengthening work environments and cultures to create healthy and productive places to work.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by strengthening work environments and cultures to create healthy and productive places to work:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- Within the next two years;
 - In the medium and longer term.

- 8. Healthy Environments (9.30am-4.45pm, 30 September 2015):** improving health in the Latrobe Valley by creating physical and built environments that protect and promote health (eg air and water quality, public and private spaces).

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by creating physical and built environments that protect and promote health (eg air and water quality, public and private spaces):

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;

d. How can any barriers be overcome.

(4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:

- a. Within the next two years;
- b. In the medium and longer term.

9. Social Disadvantage (9.30am-4.45pm, 30 September 2015): improving health in the Latrobe Valley by reducing the impact of social disadvantage on health – focussing on access to health services, and health promotion opportunities.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by reducing the impact of social disadvantage on health – focusing on access to health services, and health promotion activities:

(1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:

- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
- b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
- c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
- d. How can any barriers be overcome.

(2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:

- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
- b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
- c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
- d. How can any barriers be overcome.

(3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:

- a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
- b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
- c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
- d. How can any barriers be overcome.

(4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:

- a. Within the next two years;
- b. In the medium and longer term.

10. Community Engagement and Communication (9.30am-1.30pm, 13 October 2015):

improving health in the Latrobe Valley by engaging and empowering the broader community to create and promote positive health futures for the Latrobe Valley.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by engaging and empowering the broader community to create and promote positive health futures for the Latrobe Valley:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
 - a. Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - b. What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - c. What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - d. How can any barriers be overcome.

- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
 - a. Within the next two years;
 - b. In the medium and longer term.

11. Health Conservation Zone and Health Advocate (9.30am-1.30pm, 13 October 2015):

improving health in the Latrobe Valley by implementing innovative ways of strengthening leadership, action and investment for health.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by implementing innovative ways of strengthening leadership, action and investment for health:

- (1) How can leadership and action for health in the Latrobe Valley be improved having regard to:
 - a. Whether the Latrobe Valley should be designated a special area for action and investment to improve health (perhaps called a 'Health Conservation Zone');
 - b.

Whether the Latrobe Valley should have a special 'Health Advocate' who acts as a champion for the needs of local communities.

- (2) How should any such measures be implemented and maintained having regard to the need to ensure long term sustainability and effectiveness of the measure?

12. Indigenous Health (from 2.30pm, 13 October 2015): improving health in the Latrobe Valley by responding to the needs of Indigenous communities as they relate to health services, and health and wellbeing.

Sessions Questions

When considering improving health in the Latrobe Valley by responding to the needs of Indigenous communities as they relate to health services, and health and wellbeing:

- (1) What are the strategies for action which should be taken within the next two years having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (2) What are the future areas for health improvement over the medium and longer term having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the improvement is effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the improvement is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (3) What are the promising areas for health improvement which require further investigation and/or testing having regard to:
- Whether there is evidence to suggest the further investigation and/or testing is likely to be effective;
 - What the likely costs and benefits of the further investigation and/or testing is;
 - What enablers and barriers presently exist to successful implementation of the improvement;
 - How can any barriers be overcome.
- (4) How would you rank or prioritise the actions which should be taken:
- Within the next two years;
 - In the medium and longer term.

13. Governance, Leadership and Sustainability (9.30am-2.45pm, 19 October 2015): improving health in the Latrobe Valley by considering the best ways forward in the short, medium and long term.

Sessions Questions

Having regard to the report backs from the Health Improvement Forums on 28-30 September 2015 and 13 October 2015, what is the best way forward to ensure the health of people in the Latrobe Valley improves in the short, medium and long term?

Session Structure

Each of Sessions 1-9 share the following structure:

- 9.30am-9.45am: all participants for sessions running that day convene to hear some short introductory remarks from the Board;
- 10am-12.30pm: participants break out into their working groups to engage in a roundtable structured discussion for two and a half hours. These sessions are open to the public but will not be transcribed or open to the media. The Board will circulate amongst the sessions. Three sessions will run concurrently each day;
- 12.30pm-1.30pm: lunch will be provided;
- 1.30pm-4.30pm: all participants for that day will convene for a report back to the Board of the results from their sessions. Each group will report back for one hour. This will be facilitated by Counsel Assisting the Board. The report back is, again, open to the public. It will be transcribed and the transcripts will be published on the Board's website. The media will be invited to attend;
- 4.30pm-4.45pm: the Board will provide some short closing remarks.

Session 10 (Community Engagement and Communication) will be structured as follows:

- 9.30am-9.45am: participants convene to hear some short introductory remarks from the Board;
- 9.45am-12.15pm: participants break out into their working group to engage in a roundtable structured discussion for two and a half hours. This session is open to the public but will not be transcribed or open to the media. Refreshments will be available throughout;
- 12.15pm-1.15pm: participants will convene for a report back to the Board of the results from their session through a nominated spokesperson. Other members of the panel may also be asked to clarify their suggestions. This will be facilitated by Counsel Assisting the Board. The report back is, again, open to the public. It will be transcribed and the transcripts will be published on the Inquiry's website. The media will be invited to attend;
- 1.15pm-1.30pm: the Board will provide some short closing remarks;
- 1.30pm: lunch will be provided.

Session 11 (Health Conservation Zone and Health Advocate) will be structured as follows:

- 9.30am-9.45am: participants convene to hear some short introductory remarks from the Board;
- 9.45am-10.05am: participants and the Board hear a presentation from Colin Sindall, on consultations the DHHS has undertaken on the concepts of a Health Conservation Zone and/or Health Advocate in the Latrobe Valley.
- 10.05am-10.25am: Professor Evelyne de Leeuw and Professor Don Campbell then provide a short commentary on these concepts drawing from their own submissions, which will have been previously circulated.

- 10.25am-11.45am: participants break out into their working group to engage in a roundtable structured discussion with the presenters. This session is open to the public but will not be transcribed or open to the media. Refreshments will be available throughout.
- 11.45am-12.15pm: participants will convene for a report back to the Board of the results from their session through a nominated spokesperson. Other members of the panel may also be asked to clarify their suggestions. This will be facilitated by Counsel Assisting the Board. The report back is, again, open to the public. It will be transcribed and the transcripts will be published on the Inquiry's website. The media will be invited to attend;
- 12.15pm-1.15pm: participants will be encouraged to attend the report back to the Board of the Community Engagement and Communication session (who will have engaged in a roundtable discussion in a separate room between 9.45am-12.15pm);
- 1.15pm-1.30pm: the Board will provide some short closing remarks;
- 1.30pm: lunch will be provided.

Session 12 (Indigenous Health) will be structured as follows:

- From 2.30pm at Kommall Hall, 27 Hourigan Road, Morwell, there will be a Welcome to County and short introductory remarks by the Board;
- Audience members will then be encouraged to provide the Board with their ideas and views as to how to improve the health of the Latrobe Valley now and into the future by responding to the particular issues experienced by Indigenous communities as they relate to health services and health and wellbeing.
- There will be an opportunity for ideas and stories to be shared in the larger group but also for individuals or smaller groups to share with the Board privately in a smaller room.

Session 13 (Governance, Leadership and Sustainability) will be structured as follows:

- 9.30am-9.45am: all participants convene to hear some short introductory remarks from the Board;
- 9.45am-10.45am: presentation by the Department of Health & Human Services (45 min). Questions of clarification from the Board, Counsel Assisting (15 mins);
- 10.45am-11am: break;
- 11am-11.30am: presentation by Latrobe City Council (20 min). Questions of clarification from the Board, Counsel Assisting (10 mins);
- 11.30am-12pm: presentation Latrobe Community Health Service (20 min). Questions of clarification from the Board, Counsel Assisting (10 mins);
- 12pm-12.30pm: presentation by Latrobe Regional Hospital (20 min). Questions of clarification from the Board, Counsel Assisting (10 mins);
- 12.30pm-1pm: presentation by Gippsland Primary Health Network (20 min). Questions of clarification from the Board, Counsel Assisting (10 mins);
- 1 pm-1.30pm: lunch will be provided;
- 1.30pm-2.30pm: panel discussion facilitated by Counsel Assisting the Board;
- 2.30pm-2.45pm: the Board will provide some short closing remarks.

Locations

Session 12 (Indigenous Health) will be held at Kommall Hall, 27 Hourigan Road, Morwell.

Each other session will be held at The Century Inn, 5 Airfield Road, Traralgon.

Further Information

If you have any questions, please contact the Secretariat to the Board on 1300 556 034 or info@hazelwoodinquiry.vic.gov.au.