

Project Summary - Pacific Islander Health Consultation & Needs Assessment

Background

Pacific Islander communities were prioritised as one of two priority population groups across Queensland Government departments in 2008 due to their relative social disadvantage. Queensland Health's response was to undertake a health needs assessment initially, and then to tackle the priorities identified.

Objectives

At the end of the project, we will have:

Produced and disseminated a report that documents priority health needs and culturally appropriate strategies to address these (including dissemination strategies), for each Pacific Islander community in scope

Which communities are involved?

The in-scope Pacific Islander communities are; Maori, Papua New Guinean, Samoan and Fijian. These communities were selected on largest population size living in Queensland.

The project will focus on South East Queensland (Gold Coast, Logan, Brisbane, Ipswich, Deception Bay and Caboolture) and Cairns. The majority of Pacific Islander communities live in South East Queensland. Only the Papua New Guinean community has a significant population living in the Cairns region

Major strategies

- Literature review
- Telephone survey of randomly selected health service providers
- Focus groups with community leaders
- Focus groups with community members
- Produce project report
- Forum to share and disseminate information in Cairns and Brisbane

Governance structure

The project will be undertaken by the Queensland Health Multicultural Program (QHMP), Population Health Queensland (CHO Division). Funds for the project will be provided by QHMP. The Project Officer will be located within Brisbane Northside Population Health Unit. Bilingual/bicultural co-facilitators will be recruited to work within each in-scope community and will be supervised by the Project Officer.

Progress reports will be made to the QHMP Steering Committee comprised of both government and non-government stakeholders that oversees the work of QHMP.

A project advisory group will advise the project staff on a monthly basis.

An experienced demographer and epidemiologist from the Health Statistics Centre will provide advice and guidance to the project staff on data collection and analysis.

Health issues already identified

The literature is underway and has identified the following health priorities¹:

- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
- Obesity/nutrition
- Mental illness
- Cancer
- Family violence
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Asthma
- HIV/AIDS

Further information

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¹ Note: this may change as the literature review is currently underway and may identify additional health priorities