

Folder eCC_00019136 is in stage Annual_Report_Review

Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry

Curtin University

Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area

Faculty of Health Sciences

City Perth **Reference Number** AUS-78

Title WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Impact Assessment

Report Year 02-2021 to 02-2022

1. Annual report on the agreed workplan

Describe progress made on the agreed workplan. For each activity, detail (1) the actions taken, (2) the outputs delivered, as well as (3) any difficulties that may have been encountered. Three responses are expected. [maximum 200 words per activity]. Indicate, if an activity has been completed previously, has not yet started or has been placed on hold.

Activity 1

Title: Assist WHO in strengthening the institutional capacity in Member States for HIA through activities coordinated under the HIA Network Asia Pacific

Description: HIA is one of the important policy tools for the health sector to influence other sectors. The Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment (RCM 2016) recommended WHO to provide support for HIA policies, plans and tools within Strategic Action 1. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. WPRO will use the HIA Network Asia Pacific as a knowledge network for Member States contributing to institutional capacity building in relevant countries to exchange their experiences in strengthening governance and institutionalization of HIA, as the implementation of the Regional Framework on HAE

Status: ongoing

1) Actions

The HIA Network Asia Pacific now has 80 members from many countries. There have been no new members in the last year. The CC supports the group by building up the visibility on the internet such as the HIA Network Asia Pacific website: <http://www.hianetworkasiapac.com/> and facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HIA.network.asia.pac/>. The CC also actively supports the Network and provides links from the CC's website: <http://ehia.curtin.edu.au/hia-network-asia-pacific/>. The CC has enhanced our engagement with the network of Australian organisations by becoming a financial member of the Australian Climate and Health Alliance (<https://www.caha.org.au/members>) so that we can engage with activities in outreach for institutional capacity building in Australia through that forum.

2) Outputs

For reasons described below the communication with the Network has been limited over the past year and included emails to the group email list, the facebook group and ongoing maintenance of the website.

3) Difficulties

In early January 2021 Dr Helen Brown stepped down from the directorship of the CC. The Curtin University Faculty of Health sciences sought to appoint a new Director in 2021. This role was broadly advertised and followed a rigorous interview process. Dr Ivan Hanigan was deemed as the most suitable applicant. Dr Hanigan took up his new appointment in January 2022. Furthermore the impact of the Covid pandemic on the Faculty led to a lack of resources which the CC could use to develop these activities. Therefore during the reporting period Feb-2021 to Feb-2022 there was insufficient staff to address the activities. In particular the development of the websites and stakeholder engagement initiatives were difficult and will need to be addressed in the next reporting period.

Activity 2

Title: Support WHO in developing educational materials for HIA and organizing annual HIA training events
Description: HIA is one of the important policy tools for the health sector to influence other sectors. The Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment (RCM 2016) recommended WHO to provide support for HIA policies, plans and tools within Strategic Action 1. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. WPRO will use the materials and training events of this activity for Member States (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Viet Nam) to build HR capacity to implement the HIA policies, according to the Regional Framework on HAE.

Status: ongoing

1) Actions:

As described above the reporting period was interrupted by the shortage of staff and the change of Directorship from Dr Brown to Dr Hanigan. However during the period Dr Brown continued to work for the important aims upheld by the CC for developing HIA capacity in the region and has maintained ongoing working relationships with policy makers and WHO representatives. In addition to the ongoing maintenance of the relationships of the CC, Dr Hanigan has spent the previous year working with the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council's Centre for Air pollution, Energy and Health Research (CAR) on research and teaching of HIA methods and tools, culminating in an online workshop on HIA for air pollution on 8th December 2021. Dr Hanigan and Dr Brown have already begun an audit of the ongoing relationships on which the CC will build under the new direction of Dr Hanigan. The CC will incorporate the materials that Dr Hanigan and Dr Brown have developed in the past few years into a consolidated collection of educational materials for further training events to be held in the future.

2) Outputs

For the reasons stated above outputs were limited in this period due to insufficient staff and the lack of a Director.

3) Difficulties

For the reasons stated above outputs were limited in this period due to insufficient staff and the lack of a Director.

Activity 3

Title: Development of guidance materials for sector- or topic-specific HIA tools

Description: HIA is one of the important policy tools for the health sector to influence other sectors. The Regional Framework for Action on Health and Environment (RCM 2016) recommended WHO to provide support for HIA policies, plans and tools within Strategic Action 1. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. However, WPRO has constraints of HR resources to support Member States in this subject. Therefore, WPRO is asking the Centre for this activity. WPRO will use the practical guidance and tools developed by this activity for Member States to use in their enforcement of HIA.

Status: ongoing

1) Actions:

As described above the reporting period was interrupted by the shortage of staff and the change of Directorship from Dr Brown to Dr Hanigan.

2) Outputs

For the reasons stated above outputs were limited in this period due to insufficient staff and the lack of a Director.

3) Difficulties

For the reasons stated above outputs were limited in this period due to insufficient staff and the lack of a Director.

Activity 4

Title: HIA-related research on health impacts of climate change and health co-benefits of climate actions (mitigation and adaptation)

Description: There are urgent needs in Member States of WHO for HIA of the impacts of climate change and health co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation. WHO is asking the CC to undertake activities to support its implementation of this recommendation. WPRO will use the services and outputs of this activity for Member States (particularly the PICs and the Mekong countries) to identify/estimate the impacts of climate change and climate actions on health and health systems.

Status: ongoing

1) Actions:

Staff at the Centre used their considerable experience with HIA to provide comment on climate change and related issues addressed in the Draft Western Australian State Government Infrastructure Strategy "Foundations for a Stronger Tomorrow" Draft for public comment. That document sets out the planning, delivery and management framework for the next 20 years.

2) Outputs

Two outputs occurred from the public submission activity on the WA government plan described above: the first was submitted to the government online portal while the second was submitted as a document with extended comments regarding health and climate change in a PDF submission (available on request).

3) Difficulties

For the reasons stated above outputs were limited in this period due to insufficient staff and the lack of a Director.

2. Annual report on other activities requested

Should WHO have requested activities in addition to the agreed workplan, please describe related actions taken by your institution [maximum 200 words]. Please do not include in this report any activity done by your institution that was not requested by and agreed with WHO.

N/A

3. Resources

Indicate staff time spent on the implementation of activities agreed with WHO (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above). Do not include any data related to other activities done by your institution without the agreement of WHO. Please indicate staff time using the number of “full-day equivalents” – a day of work comprising 8 hours (e.g. 4 hours work per day for 7 days should be recorded as 3.5 full-day equivalents).

Number of staff involved (either partially or fully)

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
1	0	0

Number of full-day equivalents, total for all staff involved

Senior staff	Mid-career staff	Junior staff, PhD students
10	0	0

Implementation of the agreed workplan activities (i.e. those mentioned in questions no. 1 and no. 2 above) normally require resources beyond staff-time, such as the use of laboratory facilities, purchasing of materials, travel, etc. Please estimate the costs of these other resources as a percentage of the total costs incurred (e.g. if you incurred costs of USD 100 and the value of your staff time was USD 50 which makes the total of USD 150, please report 33.3% and 66.7%).

Percentage of costs associated with staff time	Percentage of costs associated with other resources	Total
100.00	0.00	100.00

4. Networking

Describe any interactions or collaboration with other WHO Collaborating Centres in the context of the implementation of the agreed activities. If you are part of a network of WHO Collaborating Centres, please also mention the name of the network and describe your involvement in that network [maximum 200 words].

1. The CC is a founding member of the Australian Network of WHO Collaborating Centres (<https://ausglobalhealth.org/whocc-network/>) and recently assisted with the data collection for the capacity mapping project in December 2021. This network received funding by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and hosted by the Global Health Alliance Australia.

2. On Thu Feb 17th 2022 Dr Hanigan participated in the WHO Consultation and report launch on the implementation of health impact assessment and assessing health in environmental assessments hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and organised by the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health in Impact Assessments at University of Liverpool.