

# Reporting and communicating the results of HIA

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## **Reporting the results of HIA: what is it?**

**Producing and distributing a report of:**

- **results of identifying the potential health impacts of the proposal**
- **suggestions about ways to enhance the positive impacts or benefits of the proposal and ways to reduce the negative impacts or harms of the proposal**

# Reporting the results of HIA: why do it?

**To communicate the results of the HIA and its suggestions to:**

- **the relevant politicians and other decision-makers**
- **stakeholders in the HIA**

- **To fulfil governance and accountability objectives for the HIA**

# Reporting the results of HIA: why do it?

## Governance and accountability

Whoever the audience is for the results of the HIA, it is vital to keep a full record of:

- the results of assessing the potential health impacts;
- the suggestions made to protect and improve health by changing aspects of the proposal and/or its implementation

**Full Technical Report**

## Reporting the results of HIA: who does it?

- **The HIA Assessor (s) or HIA Assessment Team write the report**
- **Steering Group for the HIA receive the report, and may suggest or require amendments**
- **Steering Group agree the report before it is submitted to the decision-makers (unless they are the decision-makers)**

# Reporting the results of HIA: when is it done?

## *Reporting the HIA results to decision- makers*

- After the assessment of potential health impacts and the identification of ways to address those health impacts

## *Communicating HIA results to stakeholders*

- After Steering Group have agreed the contents of the report
- It may be necessary to wait for the decision-makers to agree the release of the HIA results

# Reporting the results of HIA: how is it done?

## Writing the report: Contents

- Introduction – to HIA (if necessary), and to the HIA of the proposal
- Profile of the community or population affected by the proposal and the conditions in which they live
- Results of the HIA, including responses to any consultation, and results of literature review and HIA review
- Suggestions arising out of the HIA

# Reporting the results of HIA: how is it done?

## Writing the report:

### combining different types of information

- **Published research information – quantitative and qualitative data**
- **Grey literature – unpublished research; other HIAs**
- **Community profile – data describing demographics, health status and socio-economic factors, local conditions (environment) and access to services and facilities**
- **Results of appraisal – information from consultation events, and possibly from modelling**

# Reporting the results of HIA: how is it done?

## Writing the report: using judgement

Interpreting the different types of information from various sources will be affected by:

- Knowledge
- Experience
- Values
- Priorities

# Reporting the results of HIA: how is it done?

## Writing the report:

### transparency and openness

- Outline potential sources of bias affecting the results
- Identify gaps in the information or areas of uncertainty
- Areas of disagreement

# Reporting the results of HIA: how is it done?

## Style for the report

- **Clear and concise style**
- **Use as little jargon or technical language as possible**
- **If you have to use technical terms, either explain them in the text or provide a Glossary of Terms**

# Reporting the results of HIA: how is it done?

## Versions of the report

- **Full technical report – an accurate record of the HIA**
- **Summary, that includes the suggestions – many HIA stakeholders may not have time to read the full report**
- **“Short form” – key information from the full report (not a summary of all the information)**

# Reporting the results: who gets which version of the report?

- **Summary:**  
**Stakeholders in the HIA, including the community, politicians and other decision-makers**
- **Full Technical Report:**  
**Politicians and other decision-makers responsible for the proposal (primary decision-makers), and people who designed and put forward the proposal (proposal proponents)**
- **“Short form”:**  
**“Secondary” decision-makers for whom the report has implications, e.g. service providers affected by proposal implementation**

**All stakeholders should be told how to obtain the full technical report**

# Reporting the results of HIA: documentation – how is it done?

## Paper

### Advantages

- Provides access to results for people who do not have access to IT facilities
- Easy to archive

### Disadvantage

- Requires printing and distribution (costs)

## Electronic

### Advantages

- Convenient for distribution – quick, easy and cost-free
- It can be posted on a website

### Disadvantages

- Difficulties for archiving in future (as technology develops)
- May not be accessible to some people in the community, especially vulnerable groups

# Reporting the results of HIA

## *Introducing HIA:*

- It is likely that there will be a limited audience for the report – politicians, senior managers and other officers in the organisation

## *As you gain experience in HIA:*

- It is likely that the audience for the report will include people from other organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, and the community

## **Communicating the results of the HIA – working with the media**

**As you gain experience in HIA, if the proposal is of interest or concern to the community, consider producing a press release for:**

- **Local newspapers**
- **Local radio**
- **Regional TV**

## **Communicating the results of the HIA – working with the media**

**If the proposal is controversial, or there is a high level of community concern about it:**

- **develop a communications strategy at Scoping – involve experienced Press Officers**
- **Ensure all those involved in running the HIA are conversant with the Communications Strategy**
- **keep Communications Strategy under review, especially in light of any stories about the HIA in the media**

# Communicating the results of the HIA – working with the media

## Advantages

- It will bring a higher profile for health
- More people will become aware of the HIA and its results

## Disadvantages

- It will not provide in-depth coverage of the HIA and its results
- Possibility of misrepresentation

## **Ways of communicating HIA results to politicians and other decision-makers**

- **Send them the report**
- **Give them a presentation about the HIA and its results at a meeting**
- **In the framework of a workshop or similar structure, present them with a draft report and give them the opportunity to amend the report and its suggestions – in this case, it is important to maintain probity**