

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

2017 MASTER CLASS

Evaluation Summary

Background

The Health in All Policies (HiAP) Master Class 2017 was convened by the Government of South Australia with co-sponsorship from the World Health Organization (WHO). The Master Class was held on 28 - 29 March, 2017 in Adelaide, South Australia, and **led by Professor Ilona Kickbusch**, a world renowned expert in public health, health promotion and global health. The event preceded the International Conference *Health in All Policies: progressing the Sustainable Development Goals* held on 30 - 31 March, 2017 in Adelaide.

The Master Class was attended by 36 participants; 16 Australian and 20 international. A total of 26 evaluation forms were completed by participants, a response rate of 72 per cent. Of those respondents, there was an even spread of participants working in both executive or managerial level roles, and policy or program officer roles.

The purpose of the Master Class was to provide an interactive, 'learning by doing' approach including some lectures, small group work, group discussion and feedback. The topics included:

- Governance for health: foundations and concepts of Health in All Policies
- Environment and health: how to be strategic about co-benefits
- Negotiating for health
- HiAP in practice: lessons from the South Australian experience
- Stakeholder analysis: the role of stakeholders in whole-of-society approaches
- HiAP implementation: tools for practice and the equity lens
- Leadership in HiAP.

The purpose of this evaluation summary is to consider the feedback received through the Master Class evaluation and gauge how successful the Master Class has been in increasing attendee's knowledge of the HiAP approach, skills in HiAP negotiation and ability to apply HiAP principles and practices in their work.

Overview of feedback

The main feedback from the evaluation is divided into two sections; *program arrangements* and *skill development*. It should be noted that not every question was answered by all 26 respondents so there are some (minor) discrepancies in percentage totals.

All participants either strongly agreed (62%) or agreed (36%) that the delivery of the sessions met their expectations. All of the participants also either strongly agreed (69%) or agreed (23%) that the Master Class learning resource folder was useful for developing their understanding of the key concepts presented in the course. Most participants either strongly agreed (35%) or agreed (61%) that enough time was allocated for each session. 62 per cent of participants strongly agreed that the content of the Master Class was highly relevant to their work and 35 per cent agreed. The response rates were also similar for the statement 'the small and large group discussions and interactive activities were valuable for my understanding of key concepts,' however one respondent disagreed with this statement.

Participants were asked to nominate up to three (of the seven in total) sessions that they enjoyed most during the two-day Master Class. The top three included: *HiAP in practice - lessons from the SA experience* (81%), *Negotiating for Health* (58%) and *Governance for Health* (54%). The *Environment and Health* session received the lowest (four) nominations.

Participants were also invited to comment on why they enjoyed those sessions the most. Participants generally enjoyed sessions that were most relevant to their role or area of work and sessions that were clear, informative, interactive and practical. A number of comments were made about the strength of the *HiAP in practice: Lessons from the SA experience* session:

- “*South Australia - very clear about the different stories of HiAP and what were aims and achievements*”
- “*The lessons from SA experience show a good example of implementation.*”
- “*Learned from the South Australian experience and gave me new evidence on the way forward. Governance and negotiating for health care are very practical.*”
- “*Relevance to work. SA experience provided practical examples. Pushed me outside of my normal thinking.*”

Further questions enabled participants to assess how the individual sessions had improved their understanding around each topic area. 50 percent or more of participants strongly agreed that they had improved their understanding of the interface between political, economic, and social determinants and health development; the key principles, strategies and skills required for policy negotiation and problem solving, and; the critical success factors and methods underpinning the South Australian HiAP approach. 50 per cent or more of participants agreed that their confidence in effectively negotiating for health had improved as well as their ability to provide leadership in HiAP and their understanding of the hands-on tools that have been used in practice to implement HiAP.

Three participants disagreed however with the statement “*I have an increased understanding of the different hands-on tools that have been used in practice to implement HiAP.*”

Four participants disagreed, and one participant strongly disagreed with the statement “*I have a greater understanding of the interface between environmental and health challenges*” and four disagreed with the statement “*the interactive session provided an opportunity to reflect on the complexities of achieving environment and health co-benefits.*”

The *Environment and Health* and the *HiAP implementation and the equity lens* sessions received a greater degree of varied feedback in comparison to the other sessions. On reflection, the Master Class organisers recognise that the links between HiAP and the Environment and Health lecture may not have been as clearly articulated in the course objectives as they were for other topics. This also applies to the HiAP implementation and equity lens session.

These sentiments are also reflected in some of the participant comments to follow.

Participant comments

“*Great balance between 'lecture' and interactive. Interactive sessions were generally engaging - role play fantastic. Excellent mix of people attending - perfect number. For Master Class Ilona was great. Pace was really good, didn't try to fit too much in...*”

“*Overall the course was an eye opener. I gained first-hand experience in implementation of HiAP in South Australia. Time well spent.*”

“*Interactive session and group work were extremely useful and having short presentations. These elements improved our understanding and learning from each other's experiences. Environment and*

health messages were not clear. One day longer would make for more interactive work on practical aspects”

“I liked the participatory fashion of the course building on the great experiences. The sessions were well prepared and delivered. Time was well managed too.”

“Really appreciated the role-play and everything else about the class. Carmel and Ilona you are both true heroes and role models.”

“Personally I feel that the place I could learn most in is the area of the political determinants of health and the skills of health diplomacy - the parts of the course that addressed these were particularly valuable to me. The diversity and expertise of participants was fantastic.”

“Great sharing of information from speakers and participants. Great networking and practical examples.”

“Excellent mix of interstate, inter-sectoral and international participants made for productive discussions.”

Suggested improvements for future courses

Overall, the Master Class was considered highly successful and participants reported that it met their learning and professional needs. The comments and feedback received in this evaluation form did however highlight some suggestions for future improvements from the participant’s perspective. These comments, along with some reflections of the Course Directors and Master Class organising committee, are listed below:

- *“The Master Class is very enjoyable but too short. Could include some hands on experience using the tool.”*
- *“All was very well organised except for the environment session which could have been better prepared...”*
- Ensuring there is clear articulation of linkages between HiAP and certain sessions i.e. health and the environment.

Next Steps

The feedback from participants and the reflections of the Course Directors and Master Class organising committee will be incorporated into planning for future HiAP training and events.



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