

Pivots in Practice – capturing practice lessons and applying a COVID lens to prevention planning.

Background

The [Inner North West Primary Care Partnership \(INW PCP\) Prevention Alliance](#) (the Alliance) is a prevention partnership group, consisting of organisations from across Inner North West Melbourne. The role of the Alliance is to lead and advise on collaborative approaches to health promotion and prevention practice across the catchment.

In April 2020, the INW PCP held a workshop with the Alliance to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures, such as isolation, quarantine, and physical distancing, on health promotion work and community wellbeing. While the public health measures implemented across Australia and in Victoria have been effective at containing the spread of COVID-19, the focus on responding to the pandemic created additional challenges and opportunities for community and health organisations. This workshop identified collaborative activities for the partnership [and the development of evidence-based resources](#) that applied a COVID lens to health promotion and prevention planning.

The INW PCP initiated conversations with Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Hume Moreland Area team (previously Department of Health and Human Services) and the University of Melbourne regarding a shared community of practice event. The purpose of the event was to support a diversity of local service providers across the INW PCP catchment and the Northern Region reflect on 2020, celebrate achievements, capture learnings, and feed these learnings into future programming and policy.

The first *Pivots in Practice* event had 39 registrations and covered the following key topics:

- community led responses during a pandemic (Merri Health)
- dynamic participatory research approach to understanding community need (Moreland City Council)
- expanded, targeted and tailored messaging for CALD communities (Hume City Council)
- inequity in pandemics: the impact of COVID-19 (Trezona Consulting Group)
- sustaining community capability and resilience (University of Melbourne).

The evaluation found that respondents valued the opportunity to come together to celebrate their achievements and learn from each other. Participants also expressed an interest in participating in future *Pivots in Practice* events to support integrated health promotion and public health and wellbeing planning in early 2021. When asked what participants liked about the event the following themes emerged:

- A good range of topics, organisations and mix of presenters
- Hearing case studies and exemplars from others in the field was valuable
- A wonderful opportunity to share work and a nice casual feel
- Identify trends and opportunities for future collaboration
- Takeaways for some organisations included flagging items for internal conversation about community led work, strengthening and building, relationships with the community.

"I appreciated the honest appraisals of the work as presented by different agencies. Throughout I was reflecting on my own agency and team's work – with what we did, what challenged us and what could be done better."

The INW PCP, University of Melbourne and DFFH Hume Moreland Area team will continue to host *Pivots in Practice* events in 2021 with a continued focus on sharing good practice and sustaining agility. The next event is scheduled for the 29th April.

