

**Victorian Healthcare Association**

**Social Determinants of Health inquiry**

**Answer to Question on Notice – 4 December 2012 - Melbourne**

As requested at the Melbourne hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into Australia's domestic response to the WHO report on the social determinants of health on Tuesday 4 December, please find below a description of a successful Victorian prevention program that ended prematurely.

The *Be Active Eat Well* (BAEW) project took place between 2003 and 2006 in Colac, Victoria involving a number of key stakeholders, including Colac Area Health, Colac Otway Shire and the Colac Neighbourhood Renewal, with funding support provided by the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS), Deakin University, VicHealth, and the Australian Department of Health and Ageing.

BAEW was a whole-of-community, multi-setting based approach to health promotion targeting obesity in children. Local primary schools made up the bulk of settings for interventions, with local food suppliers and outlets, transport plans and sports clubs also contributing to the effort. BAEW resulted in a successful reduction in child obesity rates in the area. However the funding for the project was limited and at its conclusion was not extended.

BAEW provided an example for later iterations of whole of community approaches to obesity prevention, including the current OPAL program in South Australia. For further information about BAEW and detailed data relating to obesity prevention efforts in the Colac region, please visit: [http://www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au/hav/articles.nsf/pracpages/Be\\_Active\\_Eat\\_Well](http://www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au/hav/articles.nsf/pracpages/Be_Active_Eat_Well).

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