

Public Health and The Cochrane Collaboration

Proposed Public Health Collaborative Review Group

HPPH Field - Work undertaken in last 6 years

- Registered 1996, based in Melbourne since 2000
- Priorities for essential global topics
- Guidelines for authors of Systematic Reviews of public health interventions
- Bursaries for new reviews, protocols
- Priorities for Indigenous systematic reviews
- Handsearching of non-indexed references
- Register of public health studies
- Cochrane updates in journals
- Future.... Transition to Cochrane review group

Evidence for public health intervention or program decision making

- Evidence options:
 - Systematic reviews of primary research and evaluation (meta-analysis rarely possible)
 - Modelling using available secondary data
 - Evidence mapping

Rationale for new Cochrane Public Health Review Group

- Current Review Groups (editorial hubs) based around body parts or disease groups. Eg Heart Group, Infectious Diseases Group
- Tend to address single interventions with straightforward outcomes.
- Need for a CRG to tackle complex, multi-sectoral, multi-component, upstream interventions in public health
- Dedicated editorial team with public health content and reviewing expertise
- Ensure that high quality evidence reviews focus on ‘what works for whom and why’

New review group

- **Will not** tackle topics already established within existing review groups
- **Will** work closely with existing CRGs to establish supportive working relationships
- **Will** share registration of topics with other review groups, if desirable
- **Will** aim to influence building of new primary research

Proposal for a PH Review Group

- Plan for registration in 2008
- Needs strong developing country representation
 - Editorial Board (8-10)
 - Advisory Group
 - Methodological advisory group
 - Knowledge translation & exchange advisory group (journal editors, primary research funders, community based organisations)

Editorial team established so far includes

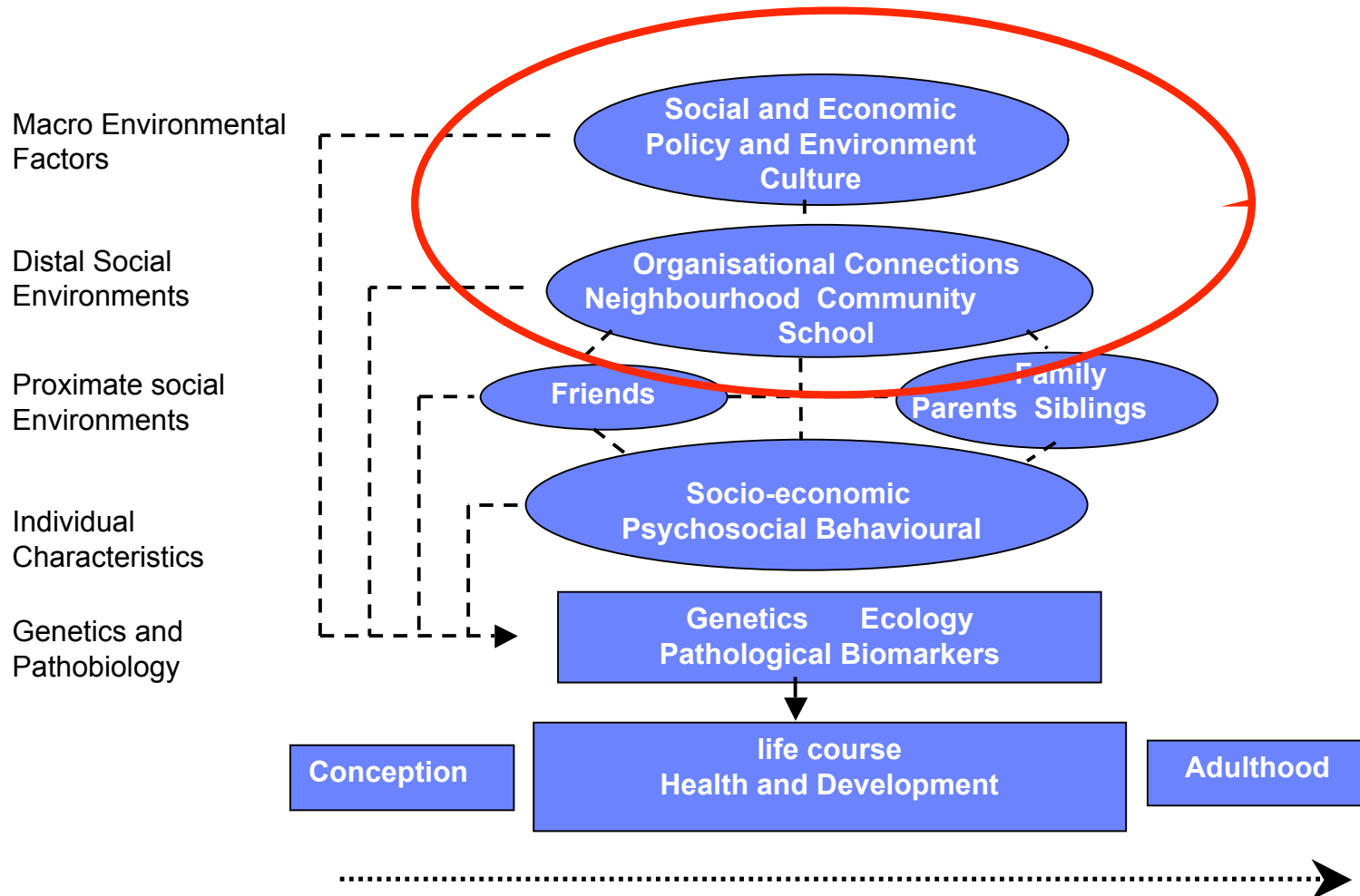
- Prof Elizabeth Waters (Co-ordinating Editor)
- Prof Margaret Whitehead (UK)
 - Chair of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Liverpool, UK, and Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Policy Research on the Social Determinants of Health
- Prof Mark Petticrew (UK)
 - Honorary Professor, Medicine - Community Based Sciences, University of Glasgow, and Co-Convenor of the Cochrane Health Equity Field
- Prof Alan Shiell (Canada)
 - Professor (Health Economics), Department of Community Health Sciences, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Senior Scholar and Fellow of the Institute of Health Economics



Proposed editorial policies

- Study designs
- Qualitative evidence
- Topics relevant to public health decision making
- Experienced reviewer teams (& mentoring novices)
- Funding for reviews will be sought (non-commercial)
- Knowledge translation and primary research
- Public health decision making training

Ecological model of health and development across the lifecourse



Lynch, J. 2000. *Australasian Epidemiologist*; 7: 7-15

Some topics from Priorities Project

- Pricing policies to increase healthy food choices*
- Interventions to create supportive environments for increased physical activity
- Community-building interventions (designed to build a sense of community, connectedness, cultural revival, social capital) to improve physical, social and mental health*
- Sales promotion strategies of supermarkets to increase healthier food purchase*
- Marketing strategies to promote healthy behaviours

Getting involved in Cochrane

- Benefits
 - Making a difference globally
 - Meeting people who are interested in similar things
 - Being supported in doing a systematic review – very different to normal journal processes

Ways of getting involved

- Not sure what a review is or how much work it takes?
- Not sure whether you want to do it?
- Interested in being part of the Collaboration, but what other ways could you contribute?
- Or your interest spans a number of groups?

Options for involvement

- Just read what's going on and who's doing what via newsletters
- Start by doing some training in systematic reviews
- Contribute in a way that aligns with your interests or available time

Other options to doing a review

- Handsearching journals
- Peer reviewing systematic reviews
- Translation
- Teaching systematic reviews in your academic context
- Dissemination of reviews and overviews

For consideration

- How do we recruit experienced public health reviewers to undertake Cochrane reviews?
- How do we determine high priority reviews?
- How do we support high priority reviews?
- Opportunities for closer ties with other public health organisations?
- How do we engage with sectors outside of health (to be true to our upstream, multisectorial scope)?
- Other issues?

For more information

- Email: cochrane@vichealth.vic.gov.au
- Our website: www.ph.cochrane.org
- The Cochrane Collaboration: www.cochrane.org
- The Cochrane Library: www.cochranelibrary.org