

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2005: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN NSW


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This issue of the Bulletin contains a four-page insert summarising *Healthy People 2005: New Directions for Public Health in NSW* which was released in both full and summary form in October 2000. The policy is introduced by an overview of public health in NSW, describes the contributions of key groups, and presents a vision for the future.

The vision is 'better health for all people in NSW through effective public health action to maintain, protect and promote health'. To achieve this, three streams of health improvement initiatives have been identified:

- healthier people
- healthier places
- reducing health inequalities.

A highly consultative process was used to develop the policy, beginning with a workshop convened in June 1999. In July 1999 the Director-General, Mr Michael Reid, issued a discussion paper titled 'Future Directions for Public Health in NSW'. Population data describing the health and risks to health of the people of NSW were included, as well as recent international and national developments in public health. Responses to this discussion paper were considered by a steering committee that was established in August 1999, which I chaired supported by Dr Doris Zonta. This committee provided advice that assisted the development of the policy.

This policy will be implemented over the next five years. Future issues of the Bulletin will highlight aspects to promote discussion and action. I encourage you to examine the four-page summary, and to access a full copy of the document. For further information on *Healthy People 2005* visit the NSW Health Web site at www.health.nsw.gov.au 

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