

## FACILITATIVE ROLE OF FIELDS

- Case study of topic prioritisation and reviewer support for production of global health promotion and public health review priorities

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## The need for systematic reviews in PH

*“Evidence is not a cafeteria, you have to eat it all, even if you don’t like it”*

*John Earl Haines, USA (political and social historian).*

Well conducted systematic reviews can help wade through the research available (or not) and inform public health decision making

## Cochrane Health Promotion & Public Health Field

- **Cochrane Fields** represent a population, group, or type of care that overlaps multiple Review Group areas
- HPPH Field registered in 1996
- Broad membership base across over 30 countries
- Directors: Elizabeth Waters, Sandy Oliver (EPPICentre-UK). Coordinator: Jodie Doyle Training & Support: Rebecca Armstrong
- International taskforces

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# Production of Cochrane reviews

## *What is required*

- Topic
- Training and support
- Connection to editors
- Funding and time
- Methodology
- Access to databases

The Field acts to facilitate reviewers' connection to the people and resources that are needed to progress a review from idea to review production.

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## Some essential tasks for reviewers

- Allocate 6 months with frequent periods of 'blocked time' for distinct tasks
- Review authors understands topic area, particularly public health importance of intervention difference on primary outcome
- Ensure funders, stakeholders and potential users are involved in identifying and framing the review question (inclusion and exclusion criteria, intervention scope and outcomes)
- *Aim* to evaluate relative effectiveness by socioeconomic status
- Where possible, aim for reviews with relevance to developing country decision making

**THESE ARE ALL AREAS WHERE THE HPPH FIELD CAN HELP**

# Identifying priority topics

- international taskforce of global health program decision makers,
- review of systematic reviews of public health by WHO World Health Report 2002,
- analysis of gaps and recommendation for policy relevant topics,
- 26 priority topics identified and disseminated
- Search for reviewers and funders

# Progress thus far

**20 potential reviewers stepped up. 8 topics aligned with reviewers are underway:**

- (2) Community-building interventions to improve physical, social and mental health
- (3) Healthy cities, municipalities or spaces projects in reducing cardiovascular disease risk factors
- (4) Interventions to build capacity among health care professionals to promote health and/or Interventions to build organisational capacity to promote health
- (5) Exercise and positive mental health outcomes in adults
- (6) Marketing strategies for promoting healthy eating in young people
- (7) Interventions using the WHO Health Promoting School framework in improving health outcomes for students in schools
- (8) Interventions to decrease / minimise adverse health effects of urban sprawl
- (22) Interventions to improve breastfeeding options for women in employment

# Reviewer support

- Mentor and assist reviewers
  - identification and facilitation of communication with co-reviewers
  - initial contact with CRGs
  - devt of title registration form
  - review advisory group (plus consult with original taskforce)
  - search for funders
- Bursaries for reviewers struggling for resources to develop protocol (includes some funding to support CRG's editorial process)

*Identification of special needs of reviewers from DCs.*

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## CONTACT & ACCESS

# Cochrane Health Promotion and Public Health Field

[www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane)

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# From a reviewer's perspective....

Sabrina Pit

# Essential tasks for reviewers

**Allocate six months with frequent periods of blocked time for distinct tasks**

## Lessons learned:

- Think about funding before starting so you can justify blocking of time. Enthusiasm may not be enough to get the protocol finished. Funding is essential.
- Think about the practicality of doing a review with people from around the globe who you have never met. Establish clear goals, time lines and frequency of communication.

# Essential tasks for reviewers

Ensure funders, stakeholders, and potential users are involved in identifying and framing the review question (inclusion and exclusion criteria), intervention scope and outcomes

## Lessons learned:

- Use contacts provided by the field and the publication “Guidelines for systematic reviews of health promotion and public health interventions” which is available on [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane\\*](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/cochrane*)

\*Jackson N, Waters E, for the Guidelines for Systematic Reviews of Health Promotion and Public Health Interventions Taskforce. Guidelines for Systematic reviews of health promotion and public health interventions. Version 1.2. Deakin University: Australia. April 2005.

# Essential tasks for reviewers:

**Where possible, aim for reviews with relevance to developing country decision making**

## Lessons learned:

- Via email we tried through various personal and field contacts and organisations to include people from developing countries in the advisory group for the marketing review without much success. We need to determine other ways than email to find experts from developing countries to be involved.
- Lack of randomised controlled trials from developing countries.
- Lack of electronic databases to effectively search for studies from developing countries. With input from the field we have compiled a list of databases covering all continents.
- Come to the colloquium and listen to the last presentation in this session “Identifying trials, or possible trials, conducted in low and middle income countries”



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