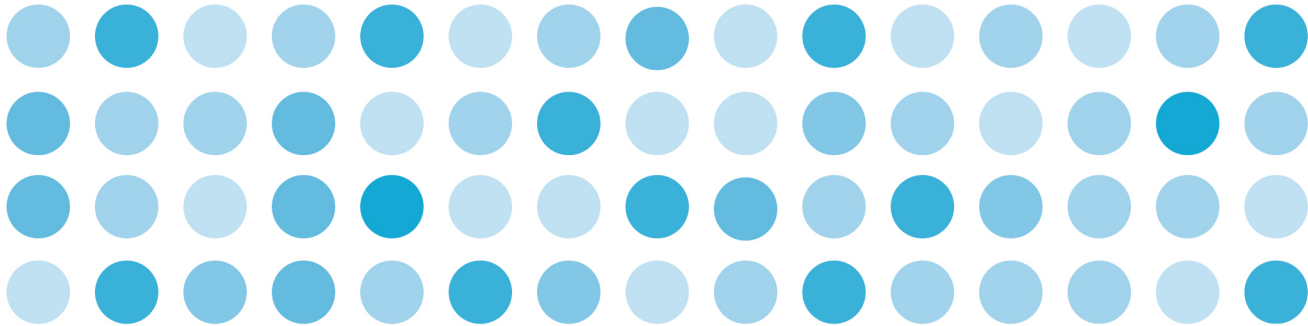


25-26 October 2010
Melbourne Cricket Ground



Anex 2010
**AUSTRALIAN
DRUGS
CONFERENCE**
Public Health and Harm Reduction

Piergiorgio Moro



**Harm reduction and
health promotion –
have we got it right?**

Piergiorgio Moro

Educator

Campaign and Advocacy Program

What are we talking about?

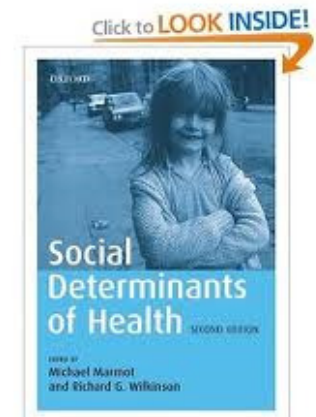
1) Health promotion has been defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as ‘the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants, and thereby improve their health’

2) Life expectancy is shorter, and most diseases are more common further down the social ladder in each society. People’s lifestyles and the conditions in which they live and work strongly influence their health (WHO 2003)

Social determinants: the social gradient, stress, social exclusion, work, unemployment, social support, addiction, food and transport

To be healthy is not easy....

Using the previous definitions, we can then say that 'health' is not just the absence of illnesses but is actually a political issue as generally the poorer you are the shorter and sicker your life will be



Harm reduction, drugs and the law

- The way the drug laws are framed and applied are not neutral
- The way resources are distributed to the drug and alcohol sector is also not neutral
- We know this, but what can we do about it?



Are we addressing the right problem?



- Are we too focused on individual responsibility?
- Are we a revolving door?
- Do we focus enough on the bigger picture?
- Do we work together in the right way?

The bigger picture – some examples

1) Transform Drug Policy Foundation - UK

Transform's vision is a world in which the War on Drugs is over and effective and humane systems of drug regulation have been established.

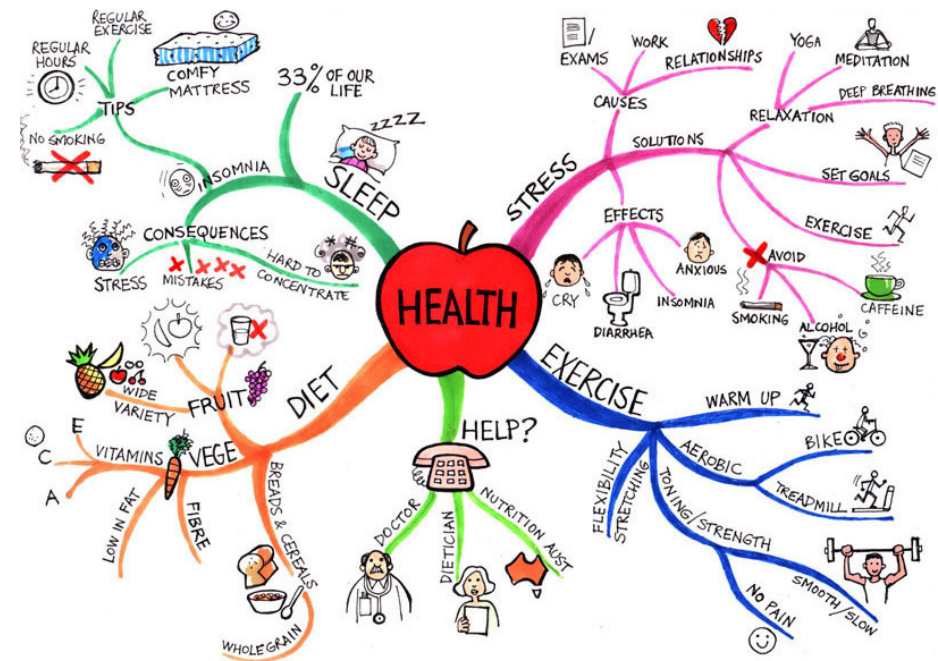
2) Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) - USA

LEAP is a group of cops, judges, prosecutors and everyday citizens teaming up to end the failed, dangerous and expensive war on



Creating Health and Wellbeing

- ***Health is created where we work, love and play***
- ***Health is not created in hospitals, or through law enforcement or through individual salvation***



Possible alternative approaches

- ***Do we train and upskill our workforce to understand the bigger picture, eg. Social determinants of health***
- ***Do we empower our members to act and be advocates for us?***
- ***Do we look outside our silos for partnerships?***
- ***How do we work together in partnership so that we are stronger, more focused, and have a more effective voice?***

More possible alternatives

- **What are our shared goals? Do we have them?**
- **Do we have forums to talk about these goals/objectives?**
- **Do we plan projects as a shared undertaking?**
- **Hepatitis C Victoria has a advocacy and campaign program, and we would like partners**

