

CQ1 - How are priority issues for Australia's health identified?

1.1 - Measuring Health Status

1.1a) - Role of epidemiology

- **Epidemiology** is the branch of medicine that studies the causes, distribution and determinants of disease in a population

Role

- Epidemiology provides vital information for governments and health organisations by showing the patterns of health and disease as well as the use of health services by the population in which they operate.
- Epidemiology is able to show trends in the prevalence and incidence; it also provides insight into the apparent causes/determinants of disease.

How?

- Epidemiology uses various measures to analyse a disease in terms of its:
 - o **prevalence** – the number of cases of a specific disease in a population at a specific time
 - o **incidence** – the number of new cases of a disease in a population
 - o **distribution** – the extent to which the disease affects the population
 - o **causes** – the factors that may have contributed to the development of the disease.

Who uses these measures?

- Public health researchers, governments, health organisations, manufacturers of health products and professionals delivering health services compare and contrast patterns of health in a population at different points in time and among different sub-groups within a population.
- They do this to:
 - identify health issues that may be specific to a particular group or area by measuring changes in health or differences between groups
 - identify areas of inequity between population groups
 - allocate resources to effectively address specific health needs
 - evaluate programs aimed at addressing illness and disease to gauge their effectiveness
 - identify behaviours that may be contributing to the development of disease and take steps to change those behaviours
 - promote behaviours that have a positive impact on the health status of the population.

Limitations - Is everything about health status measured?

The major limitations of epidemiology include:

- providing an accurate representation of the inequalities in health status between population sub-groups
- providing reasons why these inequalities exist
- providing a measure of the impact a disease or injury can have on the quality of life
- measuring the impact that socio-cultural, environmental, socio-economic and individual determinants have on health.

These can be due to:

3.1b) responsibility for health facilities and services

Commonwealth Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation of national health policies - Collection of taxes to finance the health system - Provision of funds to state/territory governments - Special concern for ATSI peoples - Pharmaceutical funding
State, territory and local governments	<p>State/Territory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation including road rules and smoking bans - Hospital services, mental health, family health services, dental health - Home and community care - Women's health - Health promotion - Regulating health industry providers - Immunisation programs <p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor areas such as sanitation and hygiene - standards and compliance in the hospitality industry, for example Meals on Wheels
Private organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Services provided include private hospitals, dental services and other health professionals in private practice. - Examples include the Cancer Council, beyondblue and the National Heart Foundation
Community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cancer Council, Diabetes Australia etc.

3.1c) equity of access to health facilities and services

- **Medicare** - designed to allow simple and equitable access to all Australian citizens regardless of location and socioeconomic status
- Supporting programs, such as the Medicare Safety Net and **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme** also promotes equity of access.
- **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme** - a government scheme that subsidises the cost of certain medicines

NSW Tobacco Strategy

Ottawa Charter Area	What's it about and why its an element to health promotion.	Its relation to <i>NSW Tobacco Strategy</i>
Developing personal skills	requires the provision of information, education and life skill development. This increases options and control for individuals over their own health.	Promotion of QUIT campaigns and using gruesome advertisements → repels smokers from smoking and buying tobacco
Creating supportive environments	there is a link between people's health and their environment, requiring a socioecological approach to health.	<p>sing gruesome advertisements → repels smokers from smoking and buying tobacco</p> <p>Providing smokers with support systems through access to 24/7 helplines and websites</p>
Strengthening community action	community action is strengthened through communities being involved in setting priorities, making decisions, planning strategies and implementing them to improve health outcomes.	<p>Using people who have quit as influencers within communities who can inspire others to quit.</p> <p>ATSI speakers for ATSI communities which have high rates of smoking</p>
Reorienting health services	about the shift towards a system which promotes health, rather than curative services.	Training health advisors and GPs to give advice on tobacco use and refer users to psychologists or helplines
Building health public policy	policy development at all levels seeks to promote health. It includes legislation, fiscal measures, taxation, and organizational change.	<p>Increase in tax for tobacco purchases</p> <p>No smoking in public</p>

National Road Safety Strategy

Ottawa Charter Area	What's it about and why its an element to health promotion.	Its relation to <i>National Road Safety Strategy</i>
Developing personal skills	requires the provision of information, education and life skill development. This increases options and control for individuals over their own health.	<p>Driving lessons - reduces the amount of hours</p> <p>120 hours of practice needed</p> <p>Speed limits on earlier licenses</p>
Creating supportive environments	there is a link between people's health and their environment, requiring a socioecological approach to health.	<p>Giving responsibility and funding to local governments to maintain road infrastructure</p> <p>Campaigns are created to deem poor driving as socially unacceptable</p>
Strengthening community action	community action is strengthened through communities being involved in setting priorities, making decisions, planning strategies and implementing them to improve health outcomes.	Increased crossings and cameras
Reorienting health services	about the shift towards a system which promotes health, rather than curative services.	Safer driving provides preventative measures, meaning less of a burden on the health system