

Assessing the Quality of a HIA report

Many practitioners and policy makers may not undertake an actual HIA but need to review and assess the quality of a commissioned HIA report. When doing so there are several things that you will need to look for and think about.

Context

- Is there a description of the background to the proposal and a local or national policy context given?
- Is a description of the actual proposal and any additional information such as timeframes of construction, deadlines for policy reviews etc included
- Who decided that a HIA should be conducted? Who has commissioned the HIA? Are there any obvious conflicts of interest? Is this information available?
- Is there a public health or community profile included that is relevant to the proposal?

Assessment and evidence

- Is the HIA process described and participants identified?
- Are both positive and negative impacts identified?
- Does the report outline the approach to health and wellbeing taken and explain it? Is it broad or narrow in perspective?
- Is evidence/knowledge to support the identified impacts included along with a description of the methods used and any participation undertaken? If not, does the report specify why not? If it does, is the evidence weighted at all?
- Are cumulative impacts given any consideration?
- Is there a breakdown of the distribution of impacts or a breakdown of the groups potentially affected listed?

Communication

- Is there a clear, concise discussion or breakdown of recommendations?
- Are plans for future monitoring or dissemination to decision makers included?
- Is the report easy to read and understandable for all?
- Is it referenced and quotes attributed?