

National Men's Health Policy: Stakeholders & Influences

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Why Men's Health?



Compared to women*:

- ♂ Higher rates of mortality and premature death
- ♂ Higher rates of injury, including suicide
- ♂ Increased burden of chronic disease
- ♂ Riskier health behaviours (eg smoking, alcohol)
- ♂ Poorer levels of help-seeking behaviours

*Source: AIHW (2008)

Impotent men are zipping their lips

the X factor

Some men are born with an extra X chromosome, which can affect their wellbeing and fertility. But it doesn't necessarily mean they can't become a dad. By **Elisabeth King**

Aussie men at cutting edge
Marmie McKimmie
Concerns about pain and loss of virility are being dismissed as more Aussie blokes have vasectomies. **Marmie McKimmie** reports

Mens website face lift

Men get hard facts about sex

Men find it hard to talk about health
JOHN LIVAN
www.fairfax.com.au

The trouble with men

A wide-ranging survey has shown that Australia's middle-aged men do not shape up — they are fat, inactive and in poor health.



Pressure's on you guys

Perk up: old age doesn't mean your sex life's over

Only a third of men with erection problems talk to their doctors: study

Fellas, stop being so coy about your health

Time to end taboo

Reproductive Health:

A critical issue

Professor David de Kretser, director of Andrology Australia, speaks to Serendip News about raising awareness for reproductive health.

Men's Health

Mid-life testosterone dip leaves libido in the lurch

No pill for him just yet
...companies need convincing that male contraception is a worthwhile venture, writes Steve C

The Australian Men's Health Review
www.mh.com.au • Number 22 February 2007



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International Men's Health Policy



Different approaches to National Men's Health Policy:

- ♂ **US:** Bill to introduce an Office for Male Health into Public Health Act
- ♂ **UK:** Amendment of the Equality Act in 2007
- ♂ **Ireland:** Framework for a National Men's Health Policy published 2009

Australia

Men's Health Policy



- 🕒 1996 Draft National Men's Health Policy
 - ❖ Never implemented
- 🕒 2007 pre-election commitment by current Labor Government
 - ❖ Consultation process current
 - ❖ Draft policy expected end 2009
- 🕒 2009 Senate Select Committee on Men's Health

1996 Draft

Lack of implementation



- ♂ Medical Dominance (Lumb, 2003)
 - ❖ Entrenched biological framework
 - ❖ Medical evidence-based discourse
- ♂ Lack of social men's health movement (Lumb, 2003)
- ♂ Political and policy climate (Lumb, 2003)
 - ❖ Policy not led to programs
 - ❖ Health Budget constraints
- ♂ Australian men's culture
 - ❖ Men and masculinities (Lumb, 2003)
 - ❖ Definition of men's health (Smith, 2007)

Senate Select Committee on Men's Health



- 🕒 Seven senators (Chaired by Senator Bernardi, LP)
 - ❖ 2 nominated by the Leader of the Government
 - ❖ 4 nominated by the Leader of the Opposition
 - ❖ 1 nominated by any minority party, or independent senators
- 🕒 137 Submissions
- 🕒 5 Public Hearings
- 🕒 13 Recommendations (published 29th May, 2009)



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



Development of the National Men's Health Policy and Raising Awareness About Men's Health

The Australian Government is committed to improving the health of Australian men throughout their lives and to implementing policies to encourage the health system to be more responsive to the needs of men and their health.

To achieve this we need to do a number of things. We need encourage men to be more engaged in their own health and raise awareness of the preventable health problems that unevenly affect men. We also need to identify issues that men face in accessing health services, and determine why men are at times reluctant to seek treatment and often seek medical help at a much later stage in their illness. In addressing these issues we need to ensure we target our efforts on communities of men in Australia with the poorest health.

Policy agenda

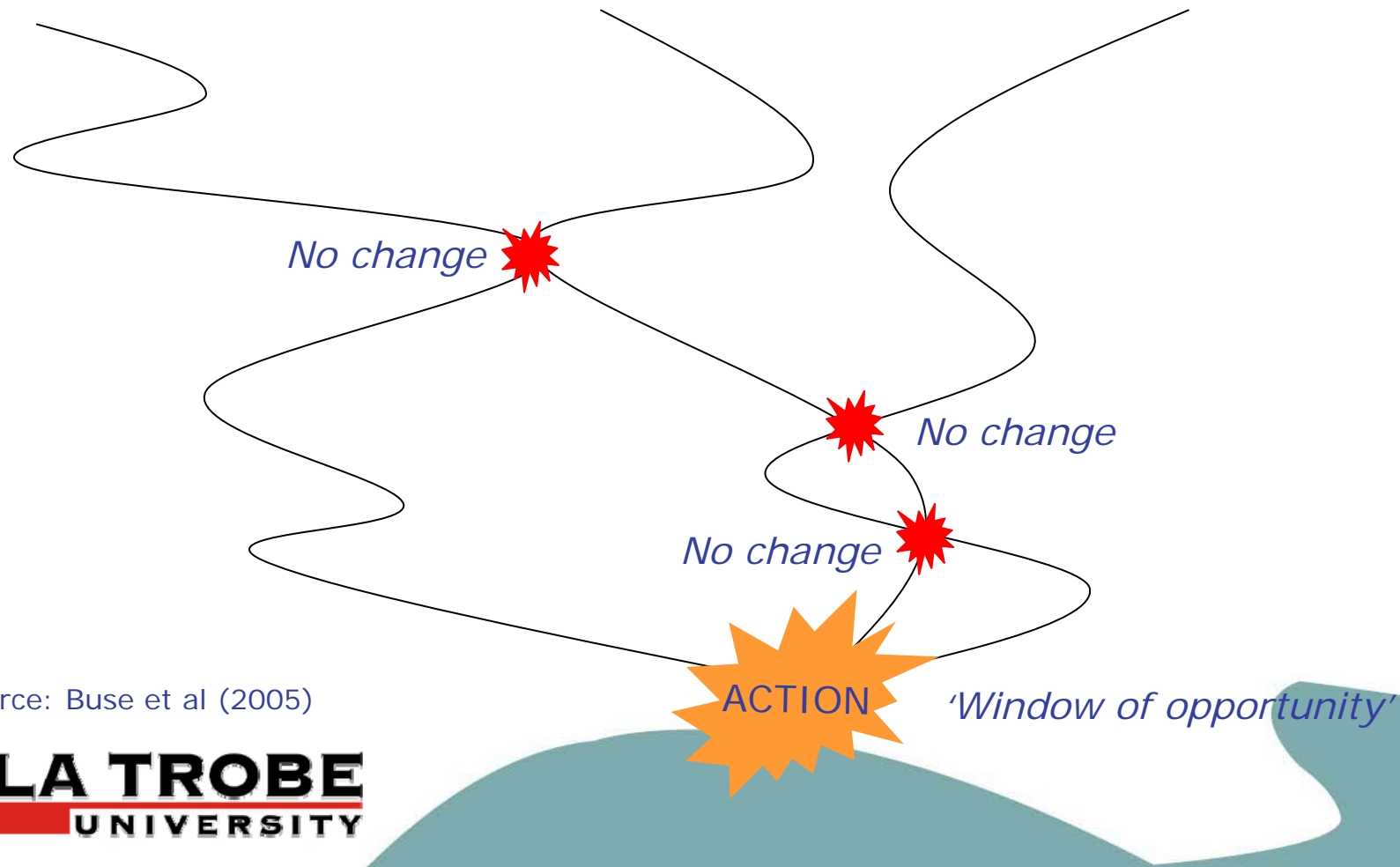
*Kingdon's three stream model**



Problem

Policy (solution)

Politics (political will)



*Source: Buse et al (2005)

Men's Health Policy

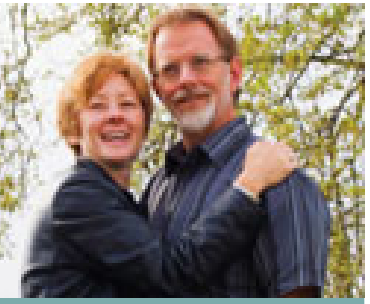
Features



- ♂ Continued on the policy horizon for more than a decade
- ♂ Increased number (& type) of actors over time
- ♂ Apparent biological vs social 'conflicts' remain

Case Study

Men's Health Policy



Provides an opportunity to:

- 🕒 Monitor health policy development for a single case
- ✓ Analyse information on changes and developments in the health & policy sector across time
- ✓ Analyse the interactions and networks of stakeholders in the policy-making process

Study Aim

Men's Health Policy



- ♂ To analyse the historical changes in stakeholder networks
- ♂ To determine whether 'bridges' between stakeholder interests influence the policy-making process

Methodology

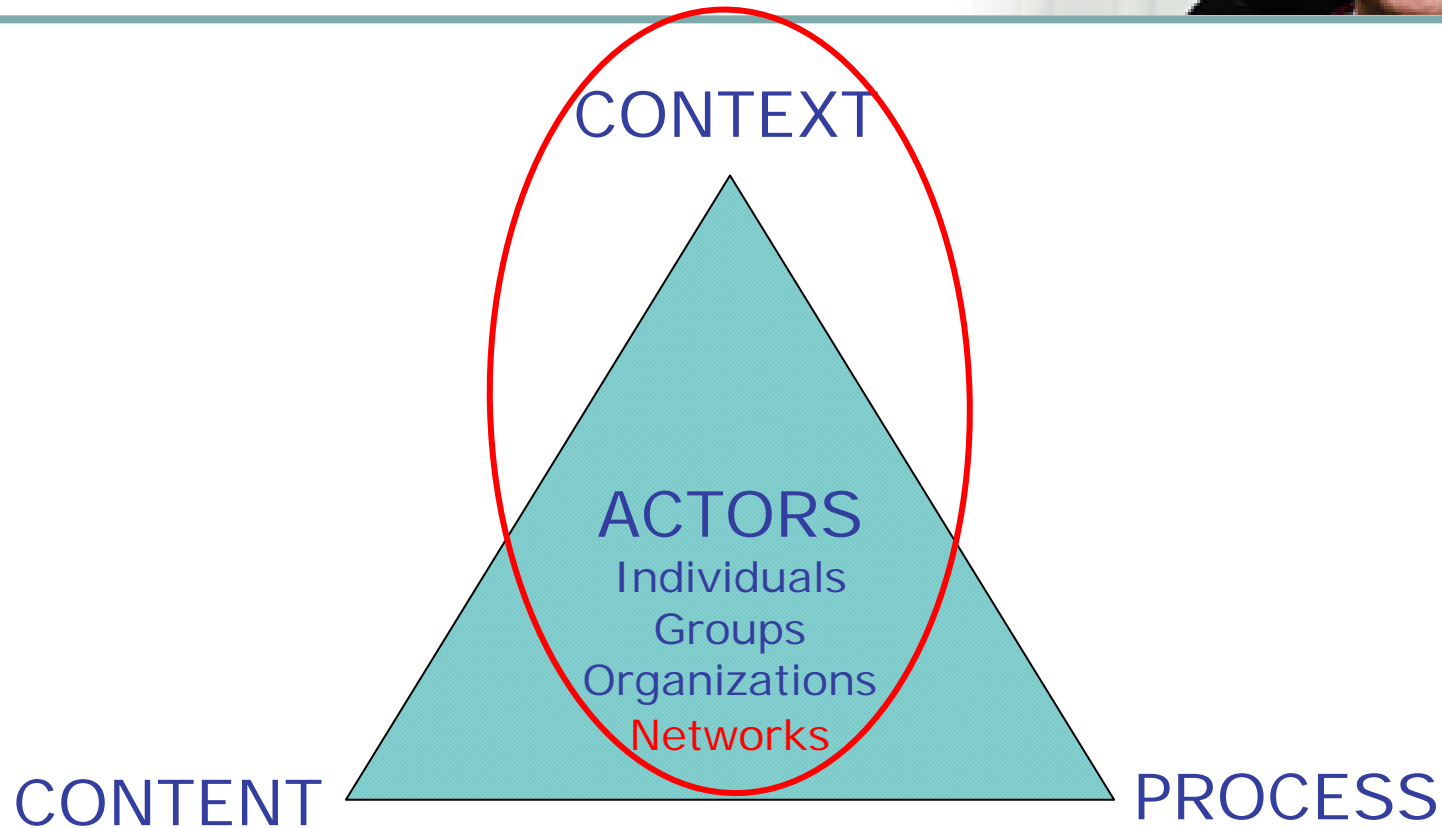


- 🕒 Interpretative hermeneutic perspective
 - 'meaning depends on context in which created and context in which interpreted'*
 - ❖ Stakeholder analysis
 - ❖ Network analysis

- 🕒 Methods:
 - ❖ Analysis of public documents
 - ❖ Questionnaire +/- semi-structured interviews
 - ❖ Ethics approval: La Trobe University FHEC

Theoretical Frameworks

Health Policy Triangle*



*Source: Walt and Gilson (1994)

Theoretical Frameworks

Policy networks



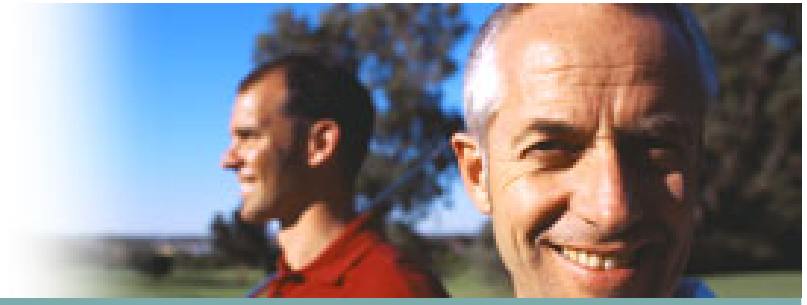
Networks:

- 🕒 Advocacy Coalitions (Sabatier, 1988)
- 🕒 Structures of interdependence involving multiple organizations (O'Toole, 1997)
- 🕒 System of linkages and influence that exist in policy-making process (Lewis, 2005)

Q. How such networks influence and inform policy is not well understood

Stakeholders

Men's Health Policy



♂ Government: Federal and State (?Local)

♂ Private sector:

❖ Pharmaceutical industry

❖ Commercial interest

♂ Public sector:

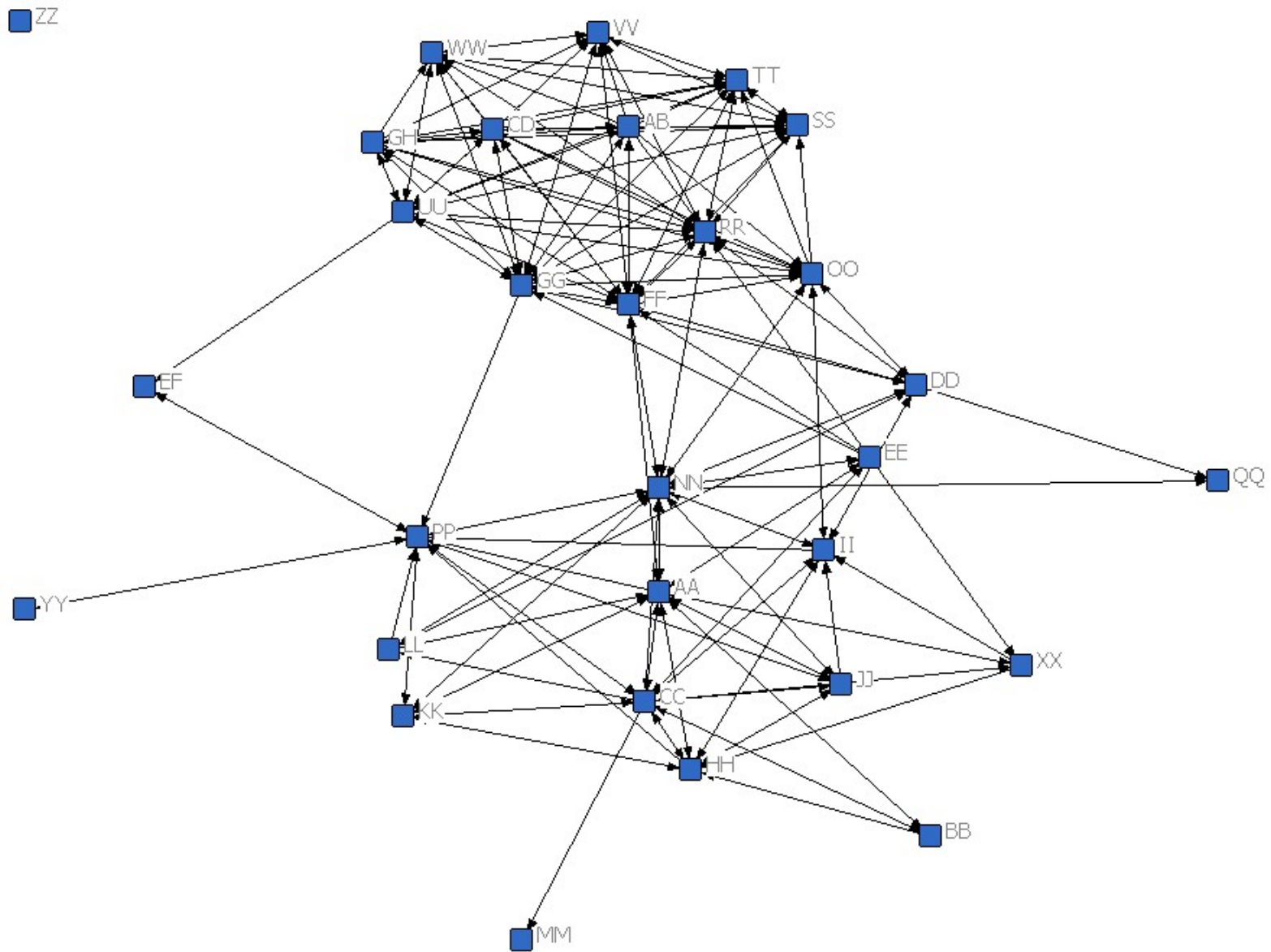
❖ Peak associations

❖ Non-government organizations

❖ Support/interest groups

♂ Individuals

Men's Health: Network Analysis



Study Limitations



- 🕒 Prospective analysis (adv. & disadvantages)
- 🕒 Potential bias as stakeholder & investigator
- 🕒 Excludes community & State/Territory inputs
- 🕒 Lack of access to policy documents
 - ❖ Policy content not known
 - ❖ Missing data
 - ❖ Other influences

Policy Implications



Stakeholder perspective

- 🕒 Prospective policy analysis provides a tool to guide development of evidence-informed health policy (Buse, 2008)

Policy-maker perspective

- 🕒 Networks for potential public-private partnerships (O'Toole, 1997)
 - ❖ Co-operation within network
 - ❖ Links between network properties and policy implementation/service delivery