

3 Organisation of the workshop

The workshop was held over two days (8–9 November 2001) at Saville Park Suites in Canberra. An organising committee assisted in planning the workshop, and the resulting program is shown in Attachment A.

The workshop was attended by a wide range of stakeholders, including senior health policy makers, health information specialists, nutritionists, epidemiologists, clinicians and representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs). Since the emphasis of the workshop was on information-related issues, all members of the National Public Health Information Working Group (NPHIWG) also participated in the workshop. A full list of participants is given at Attachment B.

The first day of the workshop focused on the key issues in the surveillance and monitoring of chronic diseases and their risk factors. These were:

- a framework for surveillance and monitoring;
- data requirements at various levels of government; and
- linkage of surveillance and monitoring to public health interventions and policy development.

Three plenary sessions and a number of distributed papers laid the foundation for small group workshops on each one of these issues.

Priorities for chronic disease surveillance and monitoring were covered on the second day of the workshop. Priorities identified for discussion by small group workshops were:

- biomedical risk factors and markers;
- behavioural risk factors and other psychosocial variables; and
- utilisation and harmonisation of various types of data.

The workshop also took into consideration the work done by the La Trobe Consortium to determine the feasibility for a nationwide chronic diseases and associated risk factors information and monitoring system.

The following documents were provided as background to the workshop:

- *National Health Performance Framework Report*, a report to the Australian Health Ministers' Council from the National Health Performance Committee;
- *Preventing chronic disease: a strategic framework*, endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) as the basis for further national collaborative action;
- *Feasibility study for developing a nation-wide chronic diseases and associated risk factors information and monitoring system*, a discussion paper prepared by the La Trobe Consortium; and
- *Chronic diseases and associated risk factors in Australia, 2001*, draft baseline report prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

In addition to the documents distributed prior to the workshop, participants in each of the small group workshops were provided with one-page background papers. These background papers are given at Attachment C.