

Social determinants of health & well being: the role of social inclusion initiatives

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Health and well-being are largely the result of what happens to people in their everyday lives. This reality has been the focus on the work of the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health established by the World Health Organisation in 2005. This paper will report on the work undertaken by the Commission and its Social Exclusion Knowledge Networks on the importance of social inclusion to health and well-being (for more details see http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/).

This work included a rapid appraisal of the work of the South Australian Social Inclusion (SASII) initiative. It concluded that the SASII had achieved some specific project goals, had created an innovative means of conducting whole of government business and had benefited from the broad structure given to its work by the SA Strategic Plan. Its profile and successes reflect the existence of its independent board and the strong political support it has enjoyed.

The paper will also describe other aspects of social innovation within SA that the work of the CSDH suggest has been particularly innovative in their contribution to social inclusion and health and well-being, including the work of community health centres.