



SPH SEMINAR SERIES

Building systems capacity and evaluating systems change

Andrew Brown is a research fellow at the Global Obesity Centre at Deakin University. Andrew completed his Master of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was trained by Peter Hovmand, a world leader in applying system dynamics methodology to community based work. Andrew's research focus is on community-based applications of system dynamics to public health. Andrew's current work is primarily focused on community based childhood obesity prevention in southwest Victoria. In the past year, Andrew has facilitated over 20 different systems thinking workshops for more than 500 participants.

The Global Obesity Centre at Deakin University in Geelong, VIC uses systems thinking generally and qualitative system dynamics (causal loop diagrams) in particular to engage communities throughout Victoria in addressing childhood obesity as a complex problem. Our work has shown that group model building can be an effective community engagement tool in community-based public health prevention projects. As our work has progressed, two key research areas have emerged: how to continue to develop increasingly sophisticated understanding of systems thinking principles in communities and how to track and evaluate "systems change" that emerge from community-based systems interventions. This seminar will give an overview of our use of system dynamics in communities and discuss our current progress in addressing questions about building systems capacity and evaluating systems change.

Date: Tuesday 2nd May
Time: 1-2pm
Room: 113
Location: Public Health Building, Herston

