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| **Title of Research Presentation** Health and wellbeing policy: perspectives from local government CEO’s |
| **Background/Objectives**Research suggests that local government is the most feasible level of government to contribute to healthy equity by addressing the determinants of health. However, little is known about how health and wellbeing policy is viewed within local government structures. This research explored the perspectives from CEO’s of Australian local governments.**Methods**An on-line survey was emailed to elected members and staff of Australian local governments. Using the constructs of political science frameworks, the survey explored how health and wellbeing is prioritised as a policy problem, what current solutions are being actioned and the impacts of local and broader politics in the policy process. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and non-parametric tests to identify any differences based on the size of local governments. Qualitative data were themed using NVivo.**Results**Of the 246 CEO’s that responded, representing 46% of Australian local governments, health and wellbeing was defined by 80% from a socio-ecological perspective and as a medium to high priority, that they have a personal obligation to the community to do something (67%) and that the investment is cost effective (60%). Of respondents, 50% reported that community demand and scientific evidence influence policy decisions and that there is a supportive local political environment, local leadership and community support. Respondents reported it less true that there is lobbying action for health (33%) or leadership from other levels of government (27%). Urban planning and lifestyle programs received most priority in health policy and the determinants of health the least, with 17% of CEO’s reporting that health and wellbeing is integrated across all policy agendas. CEO’s of city Councils were statistically more likely to report that it is true that there is sufficient staff capacity (H=21.572, p=0.000) and financial resources (H=25.248, p=0.000) to plan and implement health policy than regional or rural Councils. **Discussion**Amongst all the priorities that CEO’s of Australian local governments deal with, health and wellbeing is reported as a priority. The initiation and support of health policy is predominantly locally influenced, though with varied solutions to addressing health and wellbeing. There is an increased need for broader political support and internal resourcing to feasibly integrate determinants of health in local government health policy. **Keywords**Local government; health policy |