5th International Conference on Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance

Report on Day 2

A Day on Technical Practice? Or was it?

- Technical Issues
  - Multi-method
  - Changing telecommunication patterns
  - Validation of different methods
  - Automation
  - Place of qualitative methods
- Content Issues
  - Children
  - Mental health (or mental ill-health)

- Infrastructure and resourcing Issues
  - Piggybacking
  - Sentinel practice network
- Application Issues
  - From urban development to daylight savings
- Ethical and philosophical Issues
  - Responsibility when case finding happens
  - What point in the time trajectory to focus on

Australia as a Microcosm of Global Development in Surveillance?

- 1999 – No such thing as 'Australian' system
- 2001 – Process of harmonisation in data definitions and questions
- 2003 – Regional surveillance partnerships
- 2005 – National blueprint
- 2007 – Similar platforms, but diversity and local innovations

Focus on uses and users and build capacity (rather than aim for one standardised system

Expanding Frontiers?

- Content – social/environmental factors (early part of the trajectory)

- Methods – mixed methods that fit within local infrastructure and cultural context

- Technology – telecommunications, automation

- Partners – local health units/providers, other sectors, communities; social theory, ethics, philosophy

Or crossing the river by feeling the stones?