

Co-development of interactive decision support tools for policy and planning

Dr Jo-An Atkinson

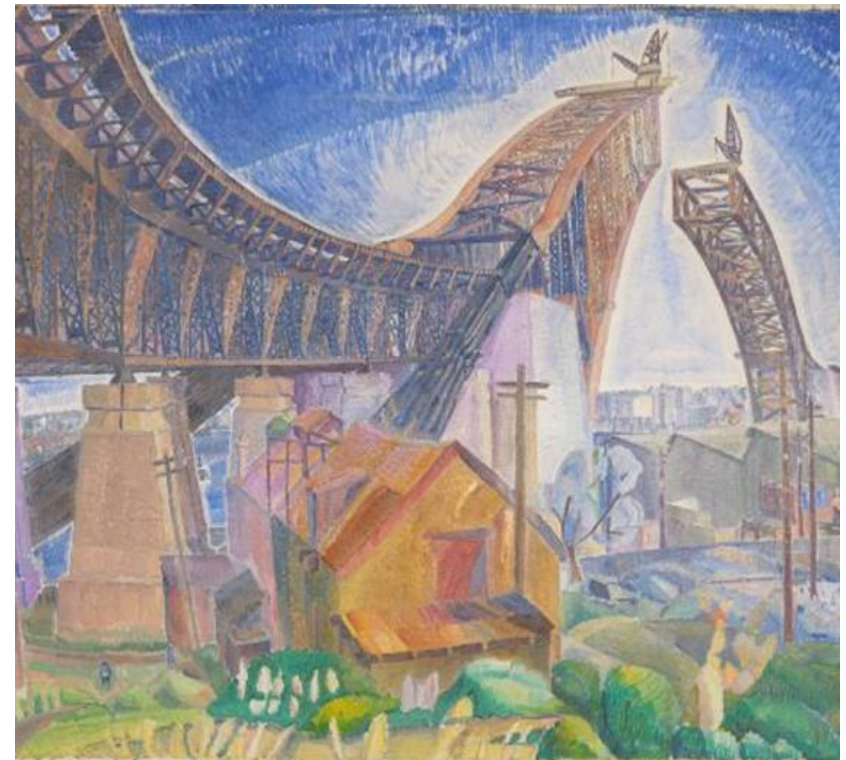
Director, Decision Analytics, Sax Institute

Lead, Simulation for Policy, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

Menzies Centre for Health Policy, School of Medicine, University of Sydney

To improve health and wellbeing by driving the use of research in policies, programs and services

- Not for profit, infrastructure funding from NSW Ministry of Health
- Provide policy makers with a gateway to expertise from 46 academic member organisations
- Work with more than 70 policy and program agencies
- Provide systems and services that have been developed and tested over more 15 years

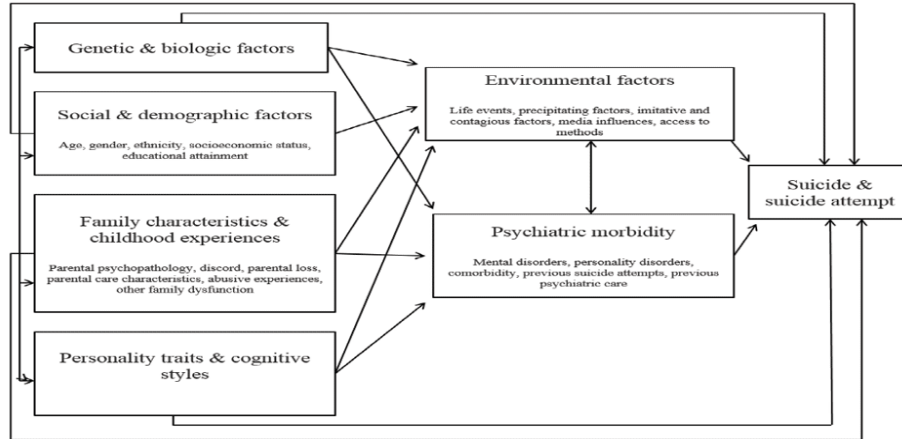


‘The bridge in curve’ Grace Cossington Smith

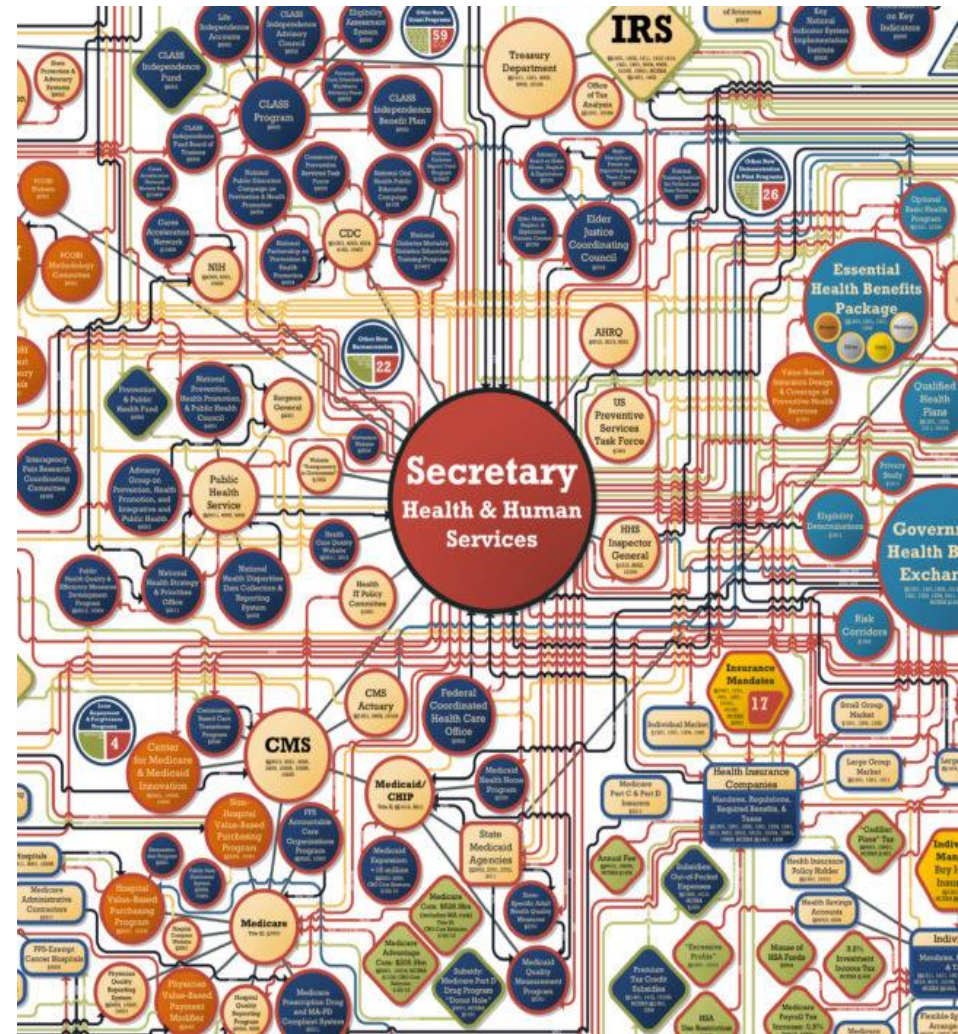
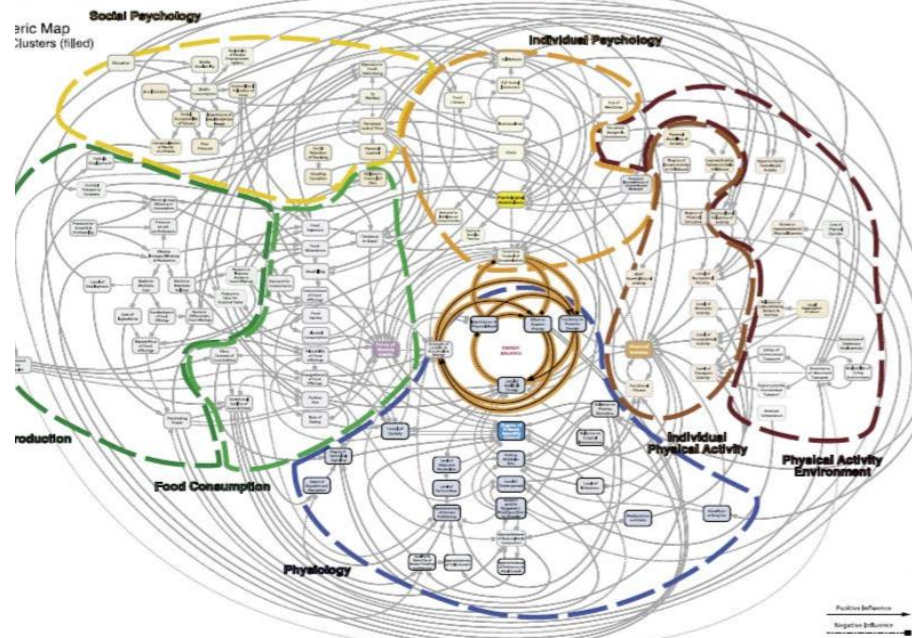
Decision Analytics

Latest advances in computer simulation
+ Best research evidence and data
+ Transdisciplinary perspectives & local knowledge
+ Participatory approach
=
Interactive decision support tools for
policy and practice

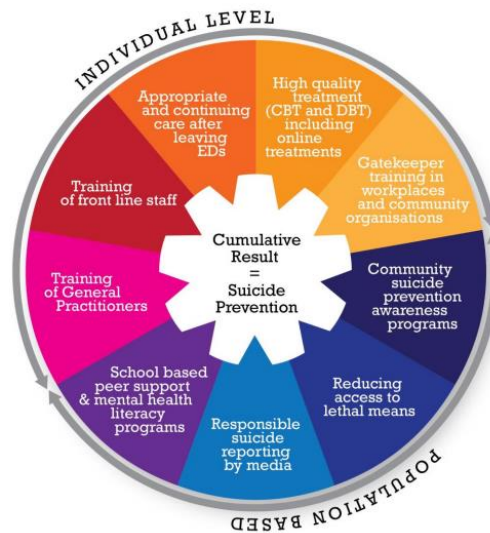
1. The complexity of the problem



Source: Risk Factors for Suicide and Attempted Suicide Among Young People (Beautrais, A. 2000).



2. Broad range of options for intervening

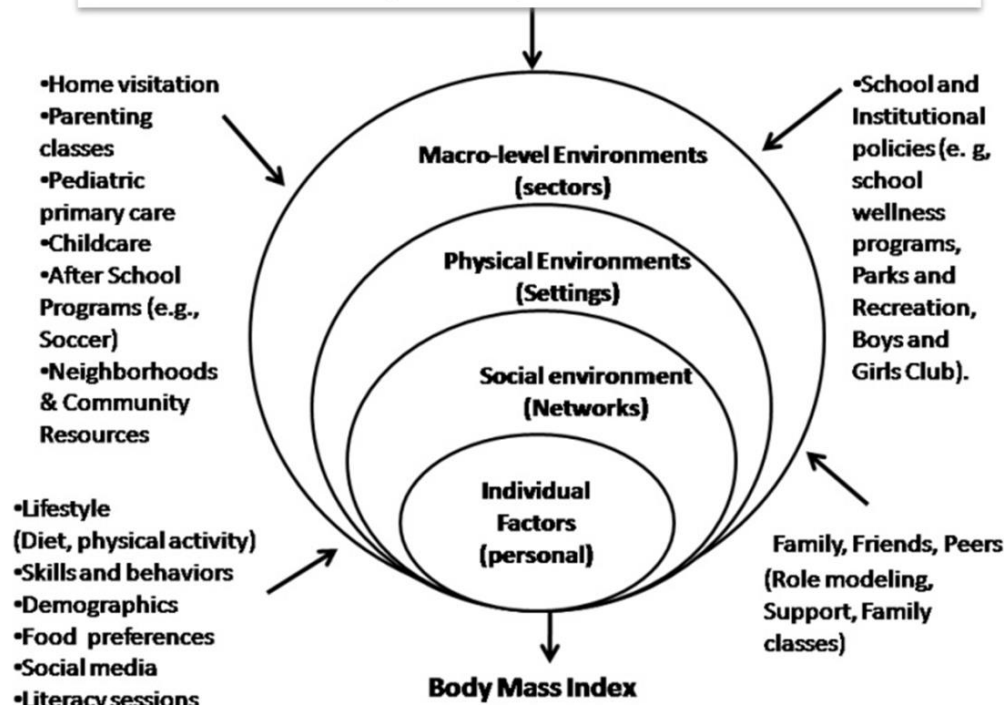


Strategies to reduce alcohol related harms

- ☐ Differential price by strength
- ☐ Social marketing regarding alcohol harms
- ☐ Restricted hours/days of sale of alcohol
- ☐ Restricted outlet density
- ☐ Alcohol taxes
- ☐ Advertising bans/sponsorship restrictions (e.g. banned alcohol sponsorship of televised sporting events?)
- ☐ Minimum pricing (e.g. Min. Price per Unit [Scotland])
- ☐ Enhanced enforcement of liquor laws (e.g. RSA legislation)
- ☐ Ban on sales in particular communities or at identified events
- ☐ Sale restrictions by alcohol strength
- ☐ Minimum legal purchase age
- ☐ Bans on drinking in public places
- ☐ Responsible service of alcohol training/policies
- ☐ Aggression management training for licenced venue staff
- ☐ Voluntary codes of practice
- ☐ Commercial liquor liability (Hotelier and Server liability) including licence suspensions
- ☐ Limits on amount sold on an occasion (including how many drinks can be bought at one time at the bar).
- ☐ Late-night lock-outs (no new customers admitted after a designated time)
- ☐ Lowered alcohol content of drinks
- ☐ High school classroom education on alcohol-related harms
- ☐ Product warning labels and messaging
- ☐ Brief intervention with risk groups
- ☐ Mutual help/self help groups (eg. AA, online support forums, apps)
- ☐ Medication for alcohol problem treatment - antabuse, naltrexone etc
- ☐ Mandatory treatment of repeat drink drivers
- ☐ Ignition locks (0 or low BAL to start car) routinely on all new cars or convicted drink drivers
- ☐ Required ankle recorders of alcohol use as a condition of probation for drink drivers
- ☐ Freezes on liquor licence numbers
- ☐ Designated driver programs
- ☐ Higher penalties for drink driving
- ☐ Zero blood alcohol for young and new drivers
- ☐ Automatic Drivers' licence suspensions for mid-high level drink driving
- ☐ Random Breath Testing
- ☐ Municipal Alcohol Plans (community-driven management plans with local government enforcement)
- ☐ Sobering-up stations/facilities
- ☐ BAL definition of "intoxication" (ie. BAL 0.15) for refusing alcohol sales in licenced venues
- ☐ Community impact statement requirements for new liquor licences
- ☐ Rationing (designated limit, either individual or universal, on how much each person can buy in a month)
- ☐ Ban on secondary supply to young drinkers

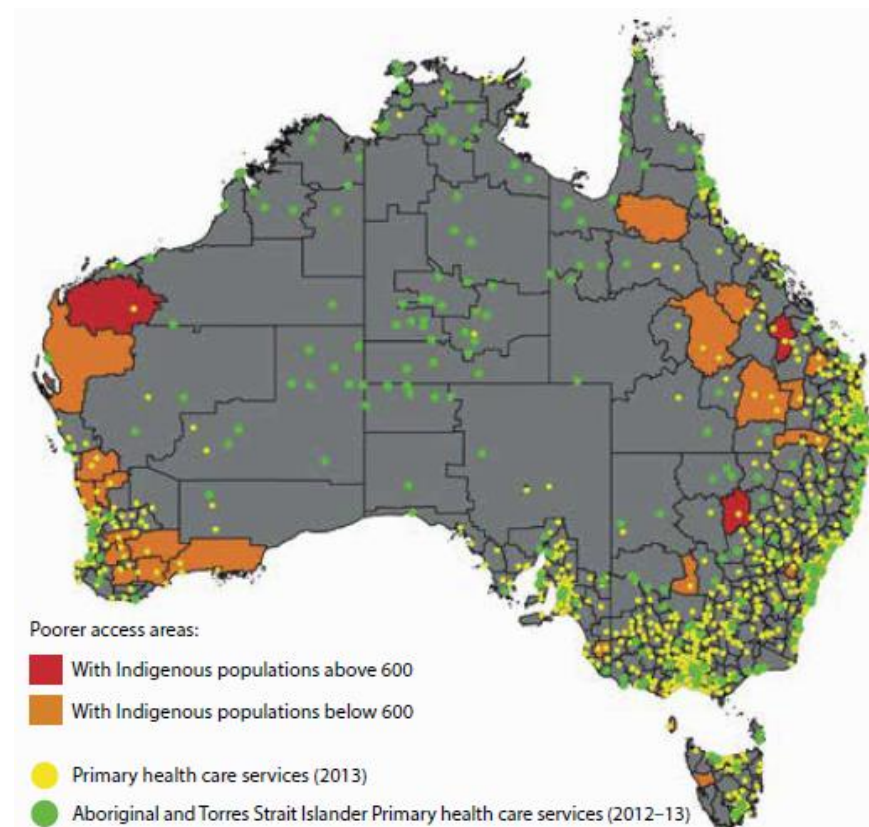
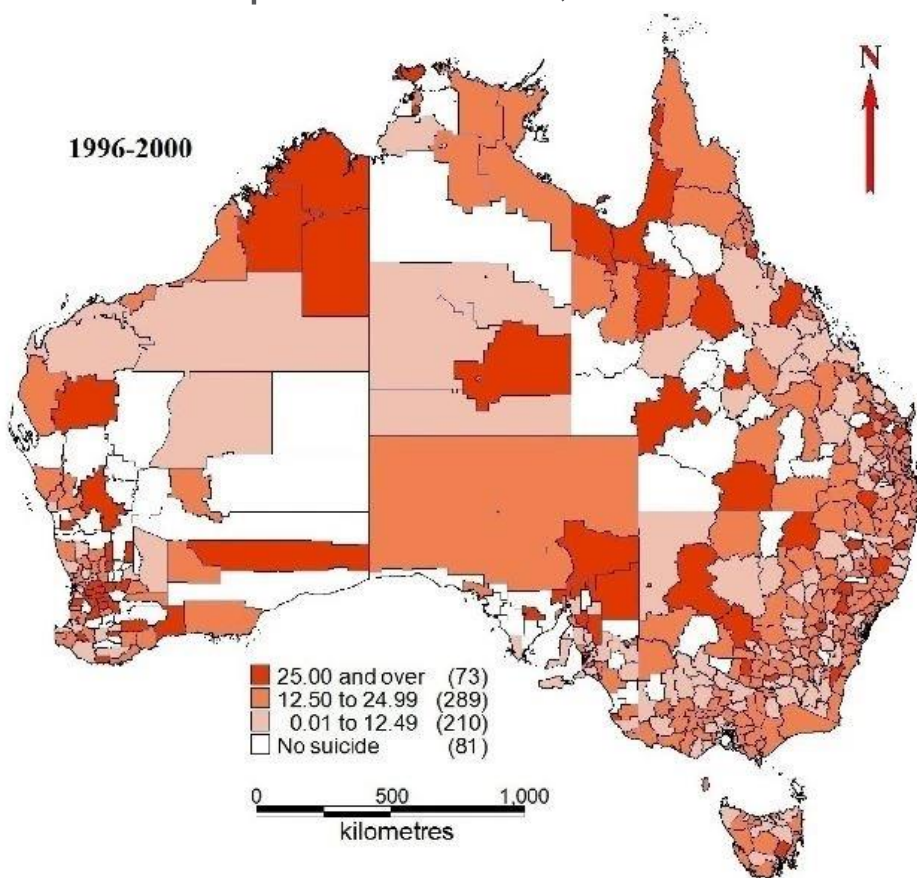
Strategies to reduce obesity

Intervening at multiple levels of influence



3. Geographical variation

Suicide rates across LGAs and unincorporated SLAs, 1996-2000.



4. Changing needs over time

Fears domestic violence, crime, suicide will rise in Adelaide following Holden plant closure

Updated 10 Nov 2014, 7:55pm

Rates of domestic violence, crime and suicide will increase in Adelaide's north if Holden workers cannot eventually move to other jobs, a Senate inquiry has heard.

The inquiry into income inequality in South Australia has been focusing on the consequences of Holden ending manufacturing at the Elizabeth plant in 2017.

Reverend Peter Sandeman is with Anglicare but is also a member of the State Government's Automotive Transformation Taskforce.

He told the inquiry there was only a short window of opportunity to train workers in other areas.

"If young people don't see a chance of getting employment at the end of school, why stay in school?" he said.

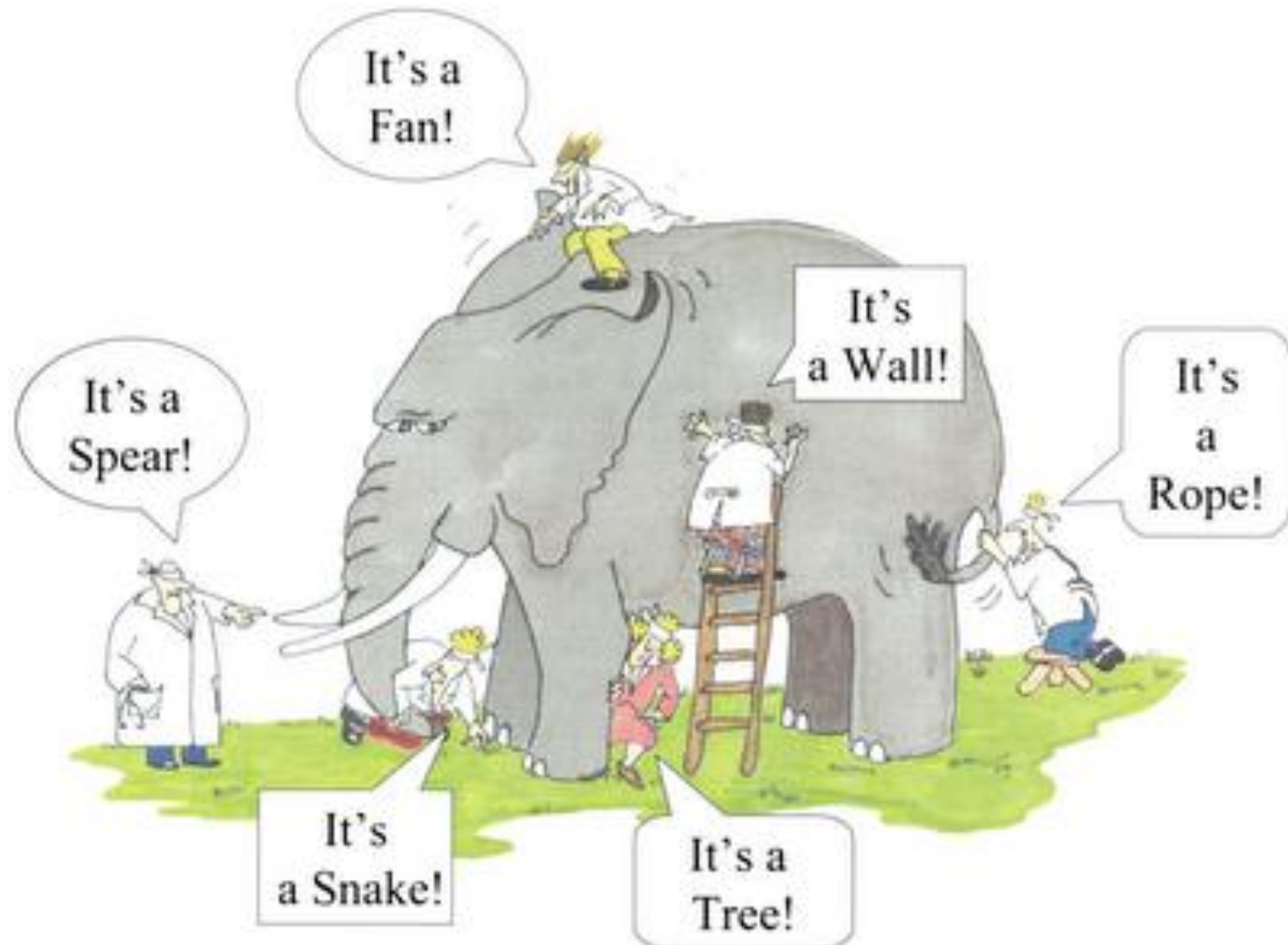


PHOTO: The future of Holden workers under the spotlight at the Senate inquiry into income inequality in South Australia. (ABC News)

NEWS



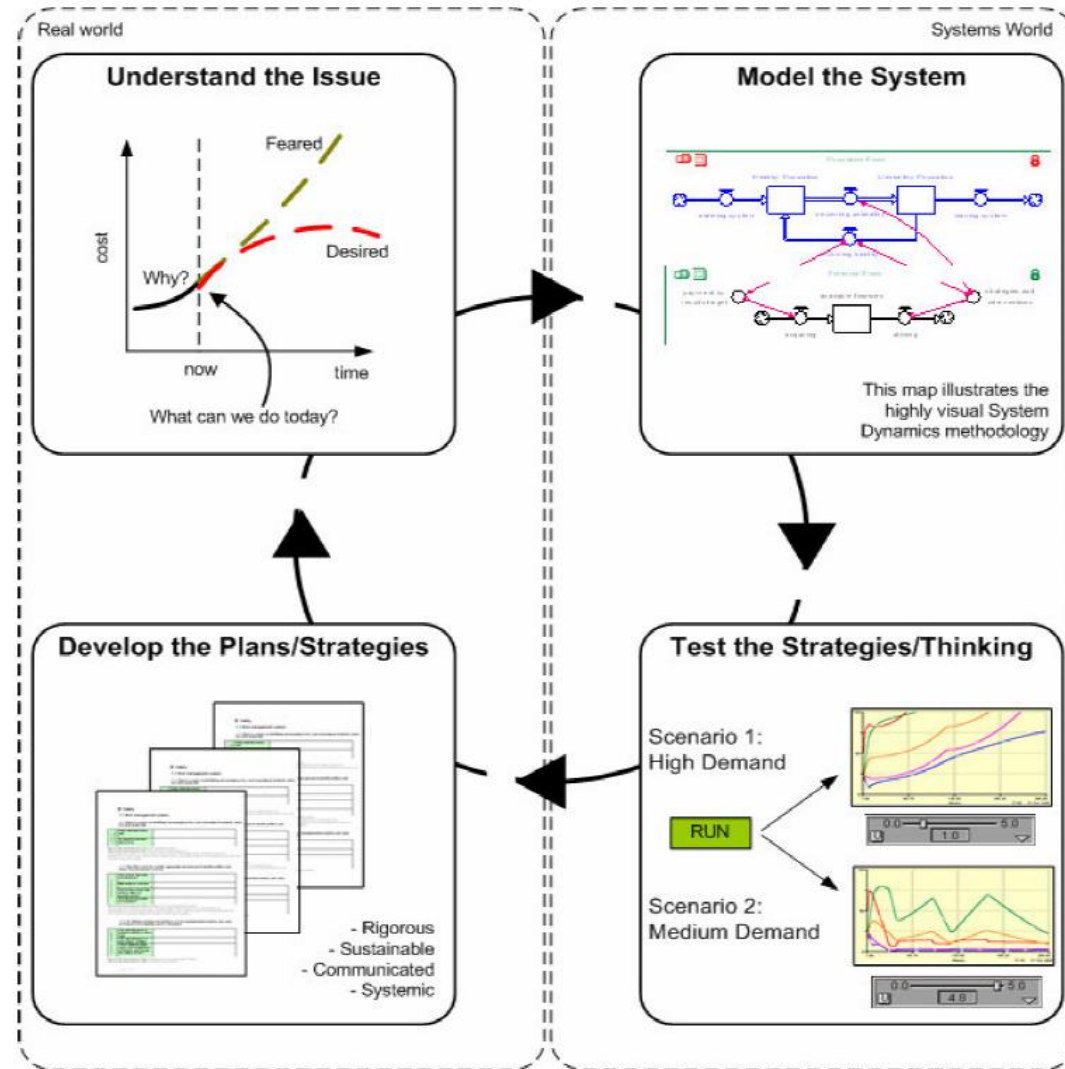
5. Different perspectives and competing views of what should be done

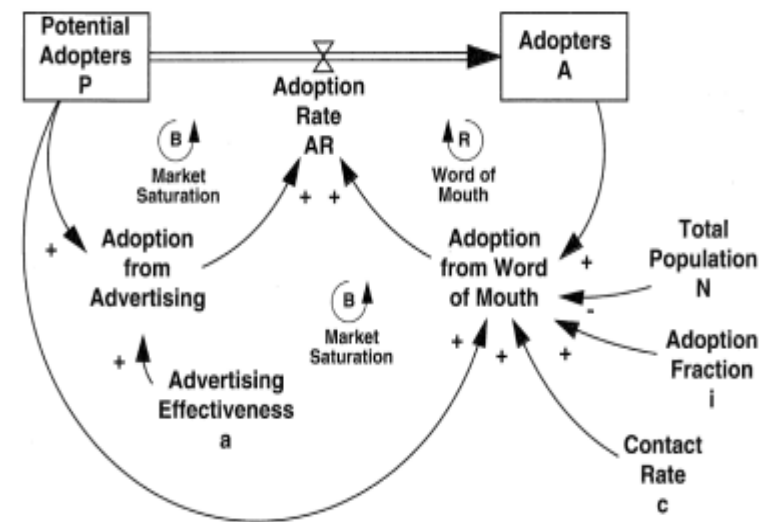
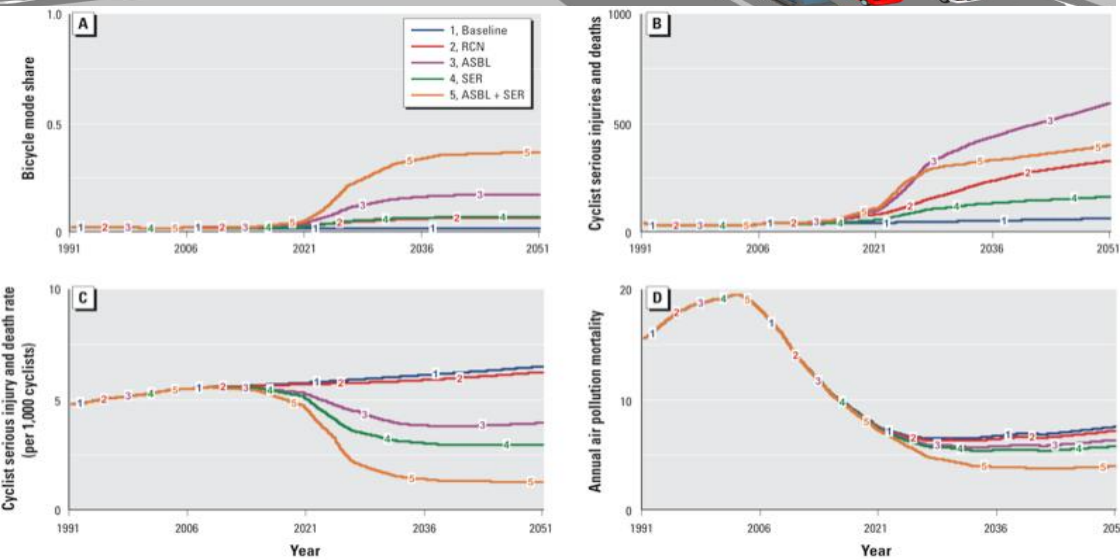
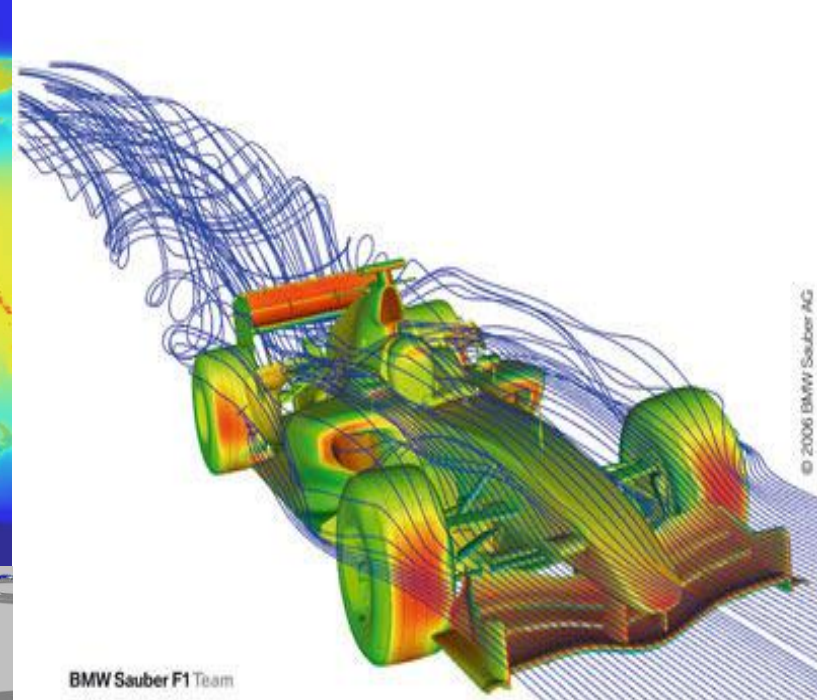
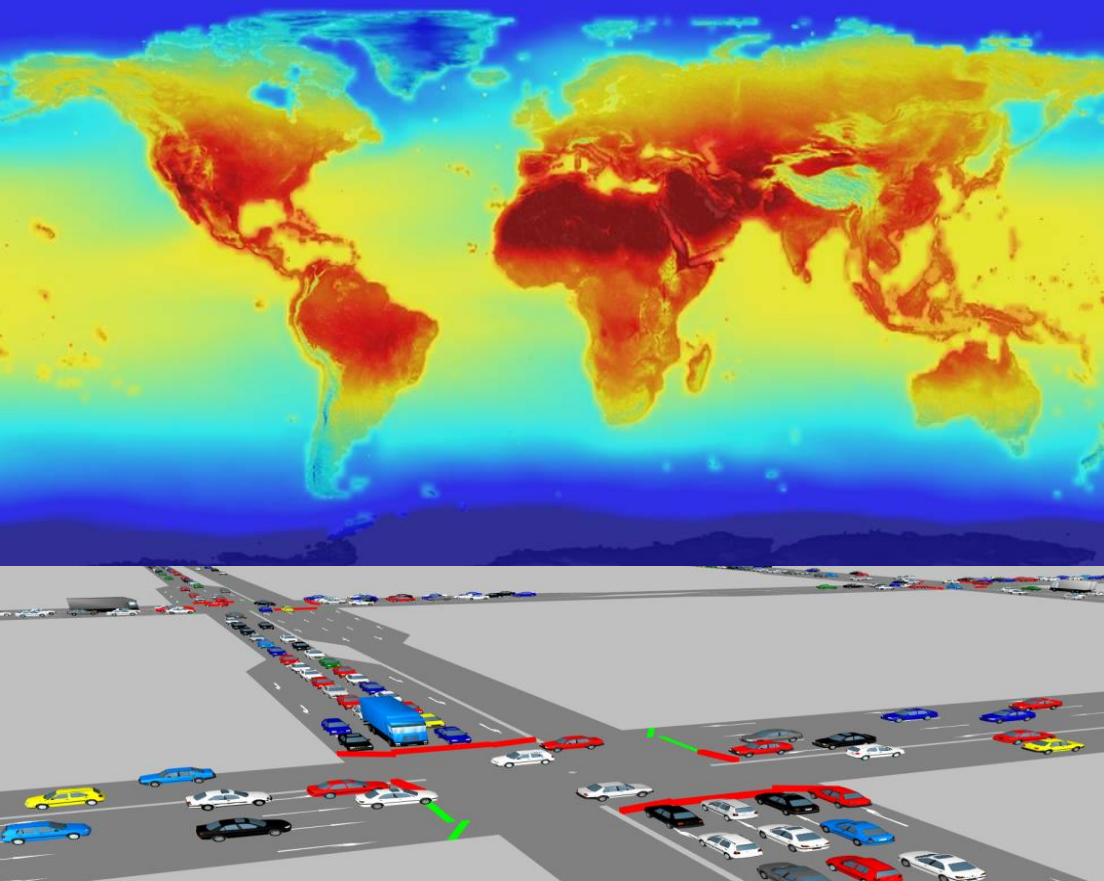


WHAT CAN DYNAMIC SIMULATION MODELLING OFFER HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING?

Systems modelling | Computer simulation

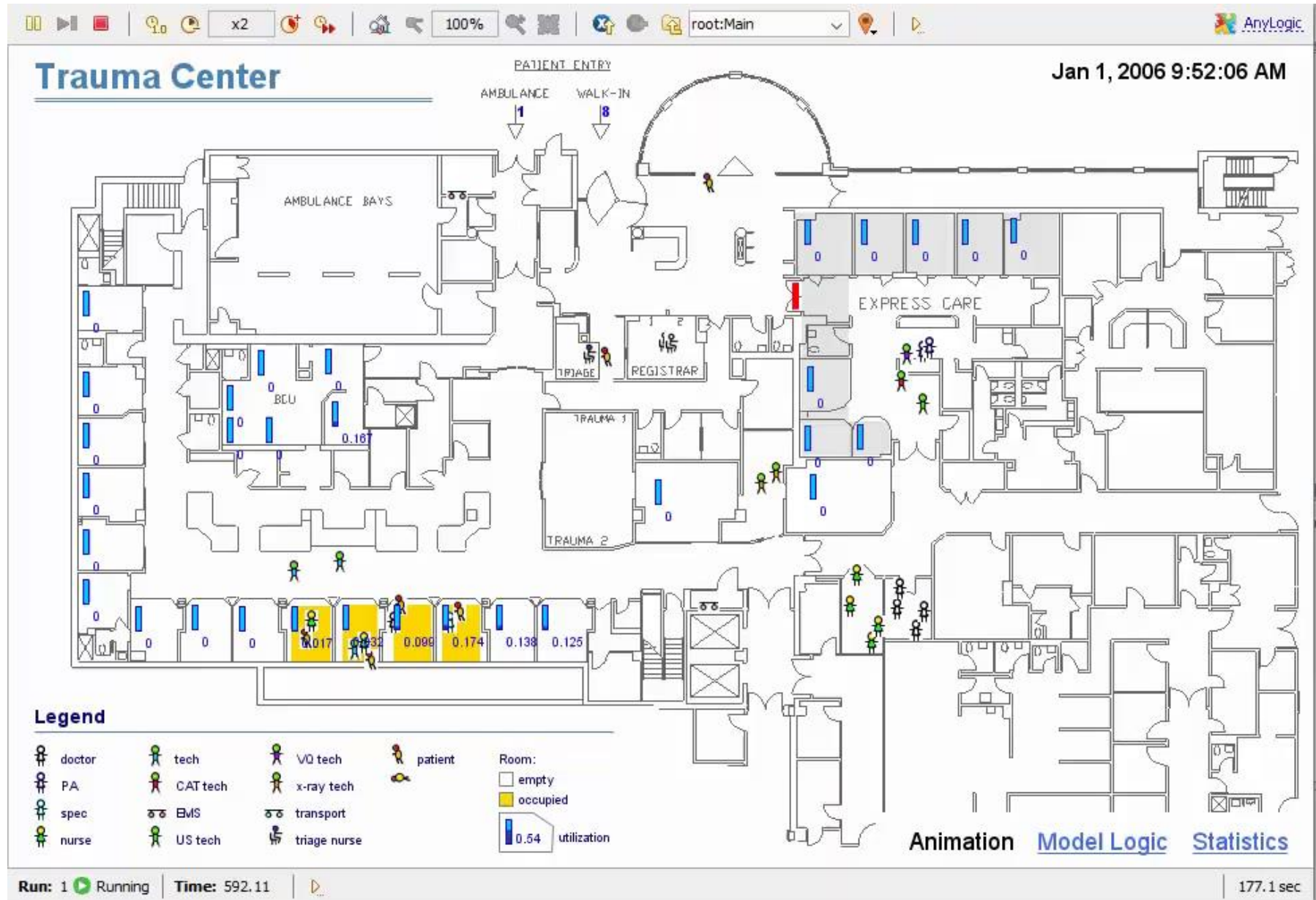
System understanding leading to insight





Adoption of new technology

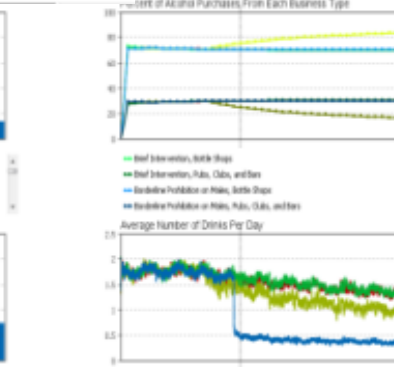
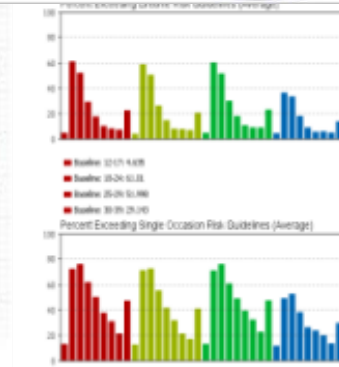
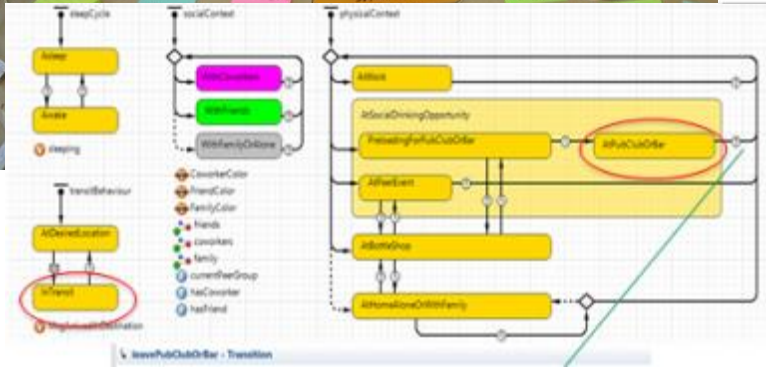
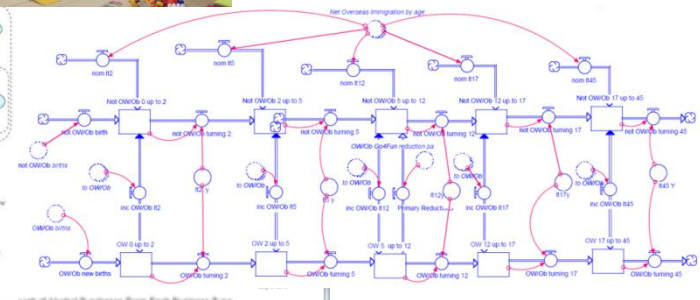
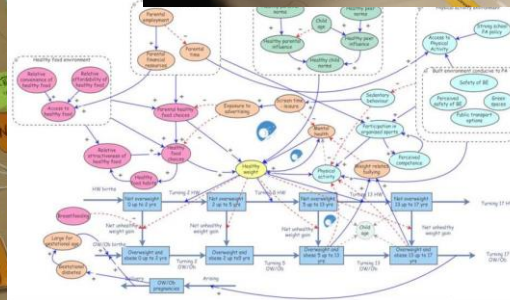
Helping to address efficiency and safety in health sector





Policy makers at centre of unique approach to test solutions to complex problems

A low-cost, low-risk simulation tool enables decision makers to forecast what will happen when they launch policies in the real world.

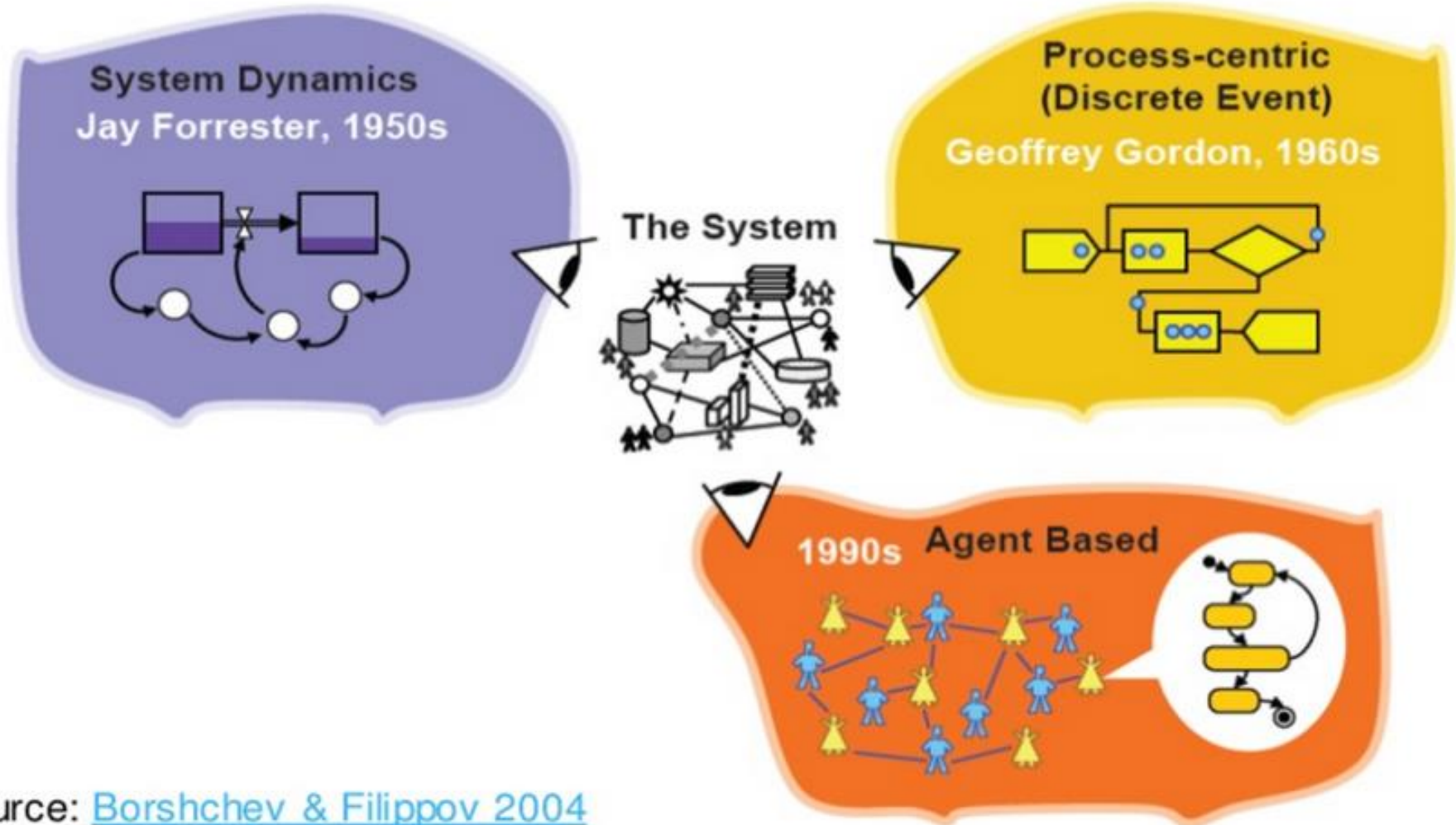


Exemplars | Policy and Planning Models

A selection of applications in partnership with policy agencies

- **Reducing alcohol related harms** – models for New South Wales, ACT, and Tasmania
- **Tobacco control models** – Queensland and ACT models
- **Reducing childhood overweight and obesity** – New South Wales and National models
- **Diabetes in pregnancy** – Australian Capital Territory
- **Smoking and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease** – New South Wales model
- **Mental Health service planning and suicide prevention** – Western Sydney Primary Health Network and National models
- **Portfolio management across common lifestyle related chronic disease risk factors** – National and ACT models
- **Integrated service planning across the health system** – Queensland model
- **Food policy** – ACT model

Dynamic simulation modelling methods



Source: [Borshchev & Filippov 2004](#)

NEW SOUTH WALES HEALTH

- REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARMS -



NSW model of alcohol related harms

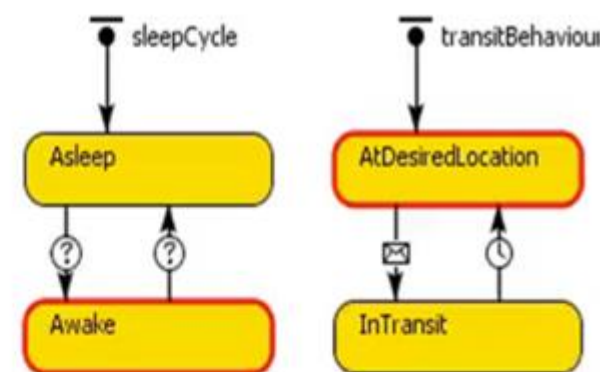
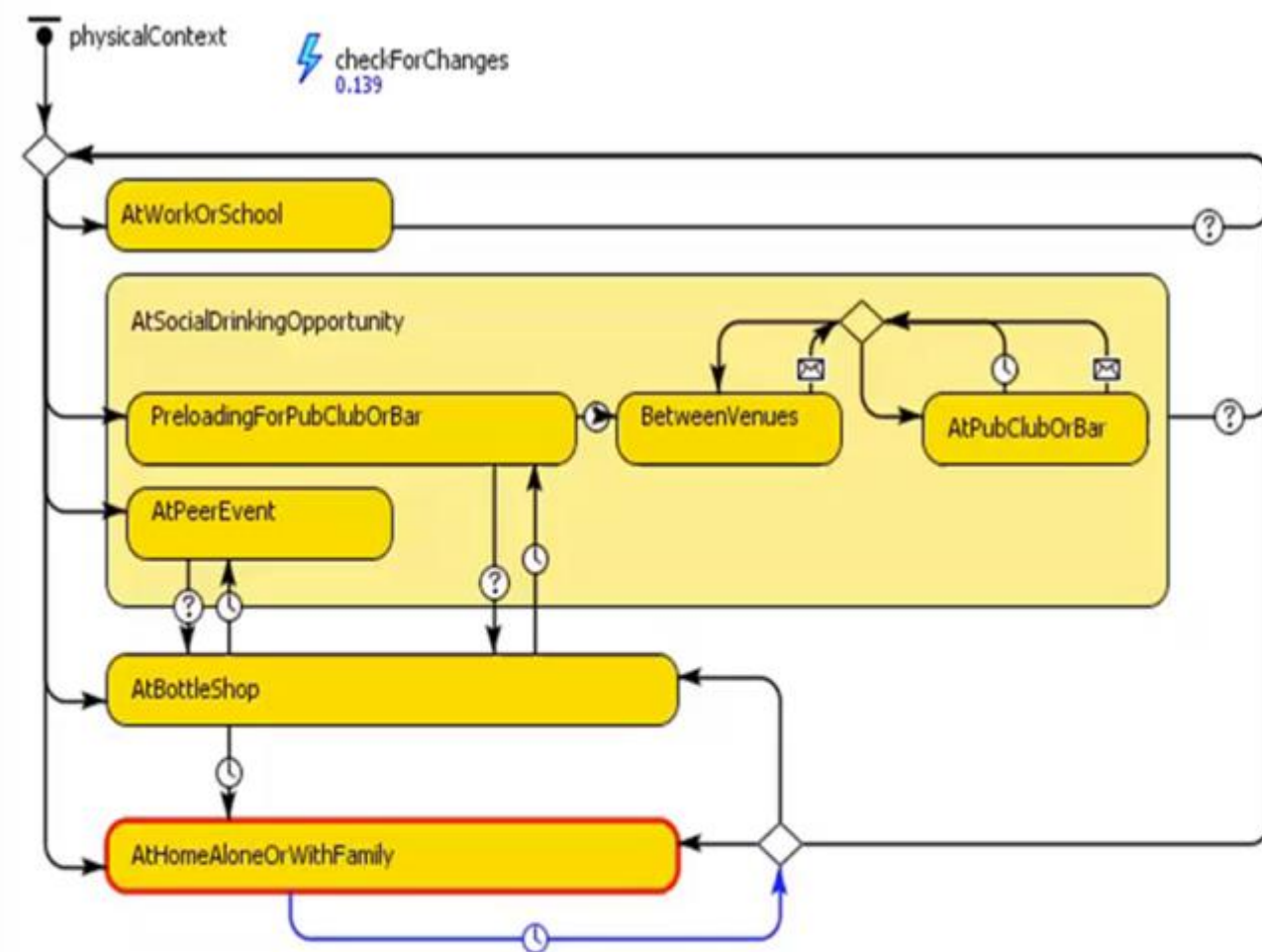
- Agent based model -

- Academic alcohol experts
- Clinical experts
- Policy and program experts
 - NSW Health
 - Centre for Population Health
 - Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence
 - Drug & Alcohol Directors
 - Local Health District Directors
 - Office of Preventive Health
 - NSW Treasury

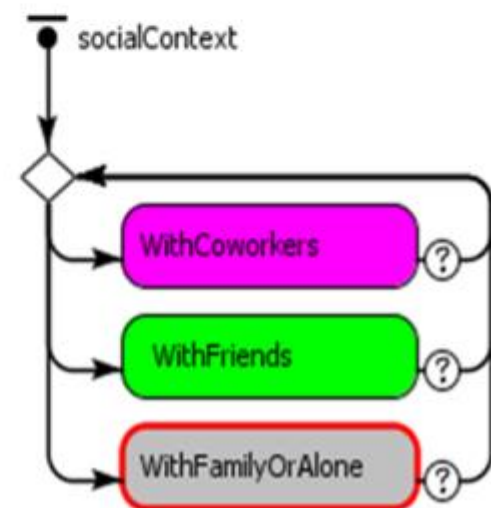


Modellers: Dylan Knowles, Ante Prodan, Geoff McDonnell

Physical Context



Social Context

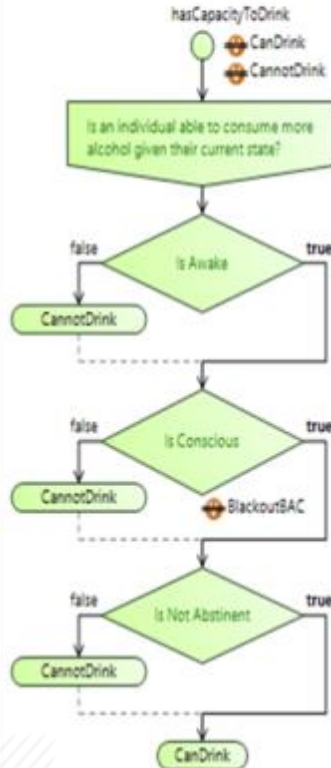


Rules govern the behaviour of individuals



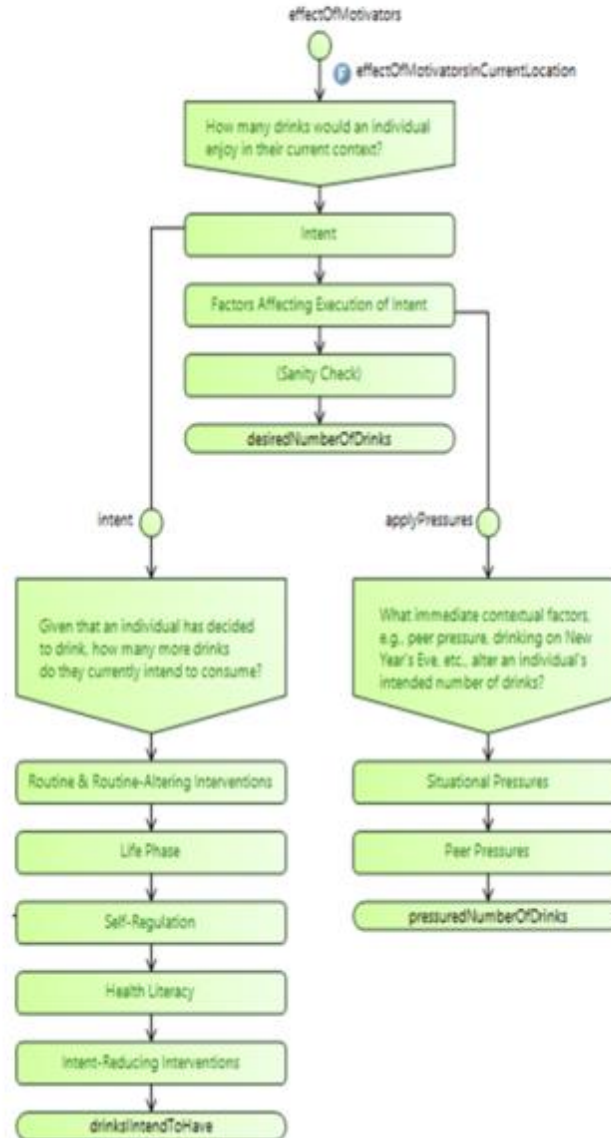
Capacity

Does an individual's state allow them to drink alcohol?



Motivators

What motivates an individual to drink more once they have started drinking?

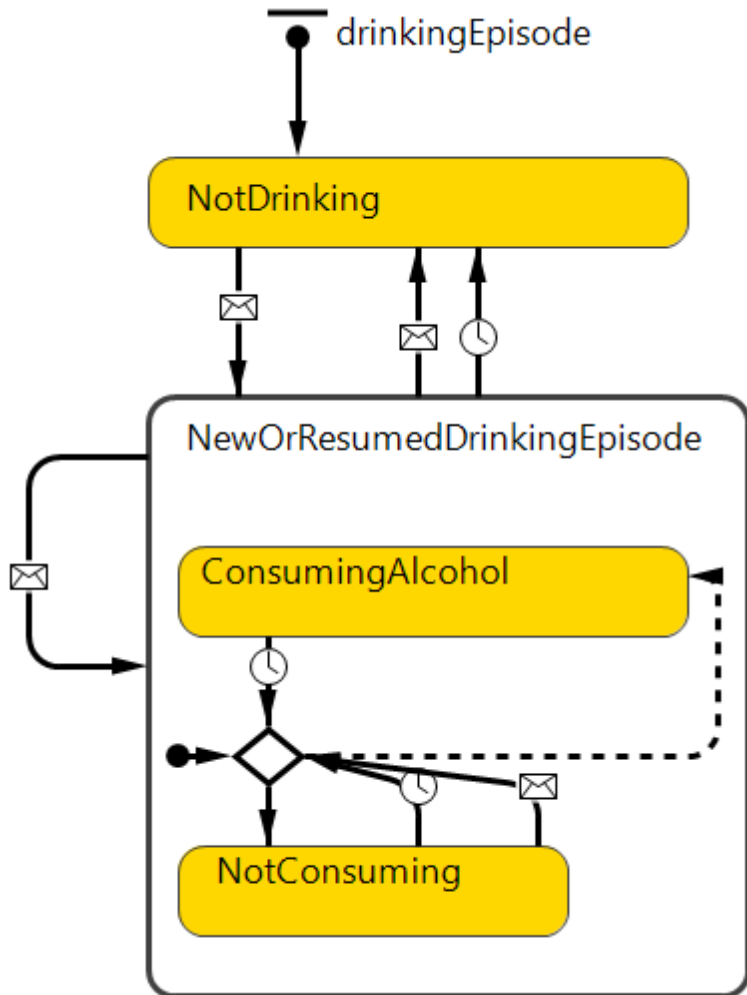


Opportunity

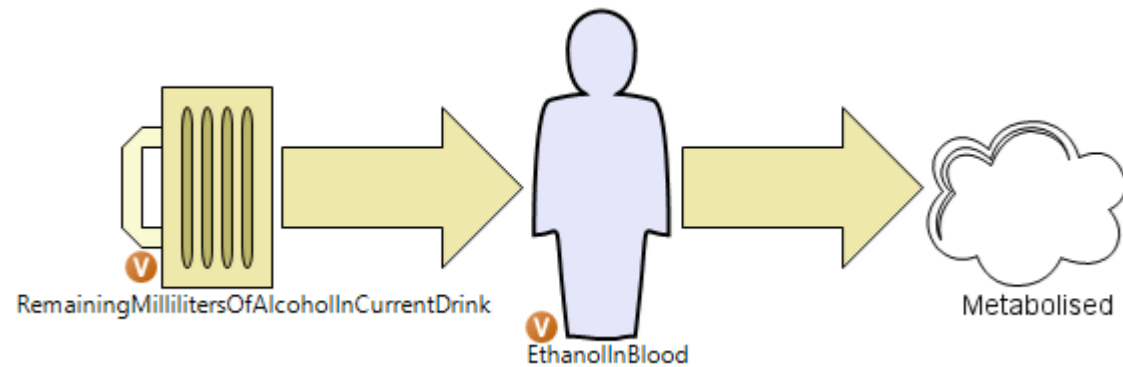
What places provide an opportunity for an individual to drink, and how attractive are those opportunities?



Drinking episodes



The model keeps track of each individuals' blood alcohol concentration



Chronic harms simulated:

Lip, oral and pharyngeal cancer
Oesophageal cancer
Liver cancer
Breast cancer (female)
Colorectal cancer
Hypertensive diseases
Ischaemic heart disease
Haemorrhagic stroke
Cirrhosis of liver

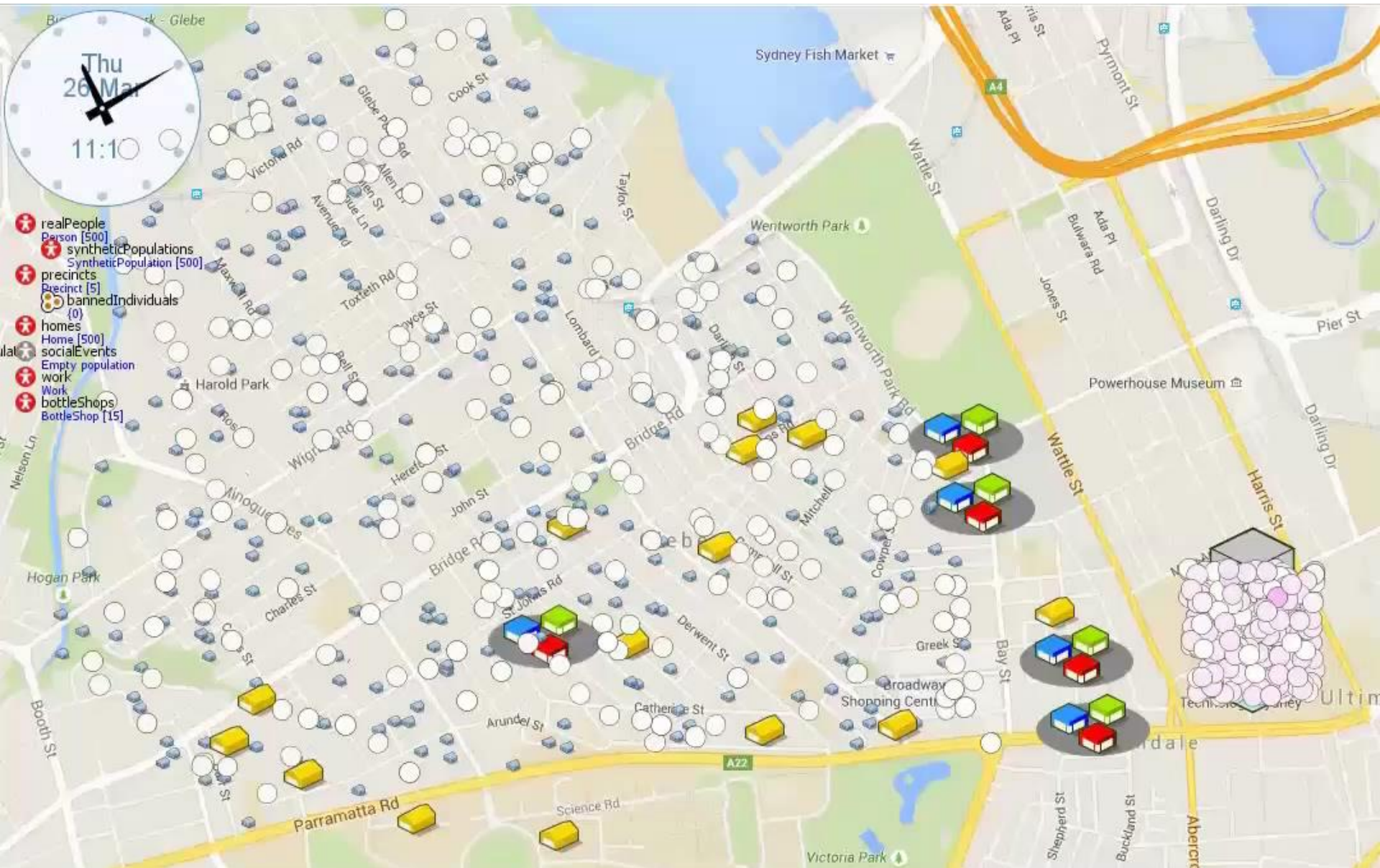
Acute harms simulated:

Violence
Road traffic accidents
Alcohol poisoning
Accidental injuries (e.g. falls, fire, drowning)
Acute presentations resulting from chronic alcohol use disorder





- realPeople Person [500]
- syntheticPopulations SyntheticPopulation [500]
- precincts Precinct [5]
- bannedIndividuals (0)
- homes Home [500]
- socialEvents Empty population work
- bottleShops BottleShop [15]



Test whether model is able to reproduce historic data pattern across a range of indicators

Baseline model run video 2016-06-10_8-48-43

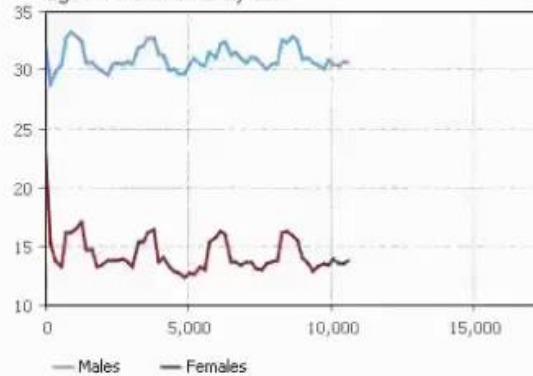
File Edit View Window Help

NSW Alcohol Model : Simulation - AnyLogic Professional

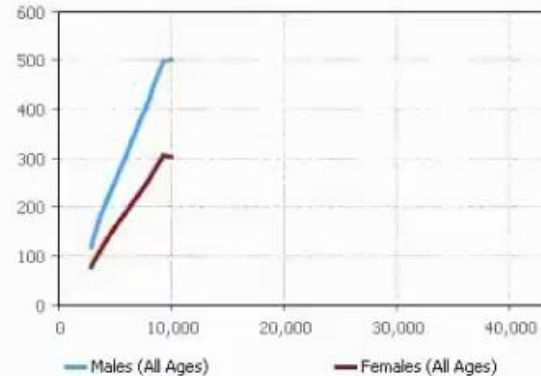
1: 16 100% root:Main

Outcome indicators of Interest

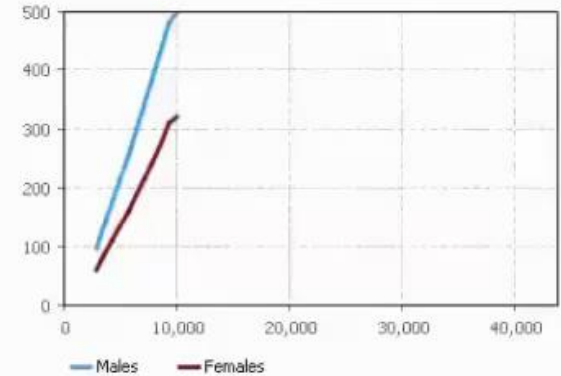
Alcohol consumption at levels posing lifetime risk, ages 16 and over by sex



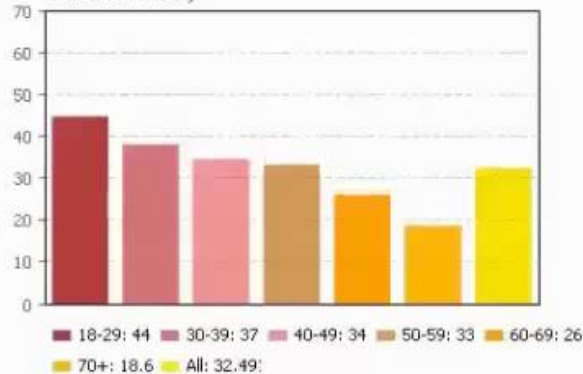
Alcohol Attributable ED Presentations for Acute Harms (Per 100K)



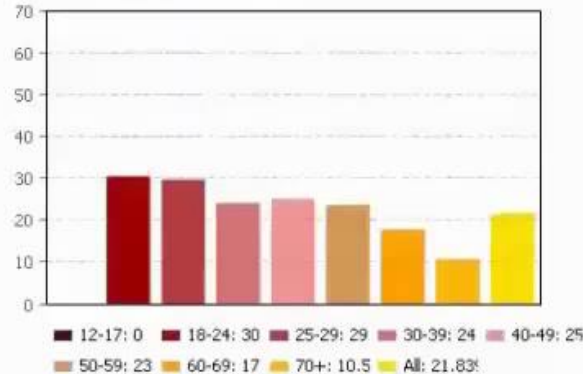
Alcohol Attributable Hospitalisations (Per 100K)



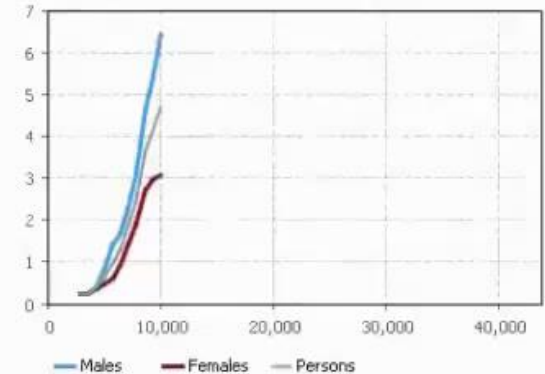
Proportion exceeding single occasion risk guidelines at least monthly



Alcohol consumption at levels posing lifetime risk, ages 16 and over by age category



Alcohol attributable deaths (Per 100K)



Time: 10736.00 Simulation: 10% Date: Mar 23, 2016 2:00:00 PM

Memory: 1,255 MB of 5,541 MB

Model interventions:

Brief interventions (delivered by health professionals)

Improved access to alcohol treatment services

Restriction of hours of sale of alcohol

'Lock outs'

Limiting the density of licensed venues

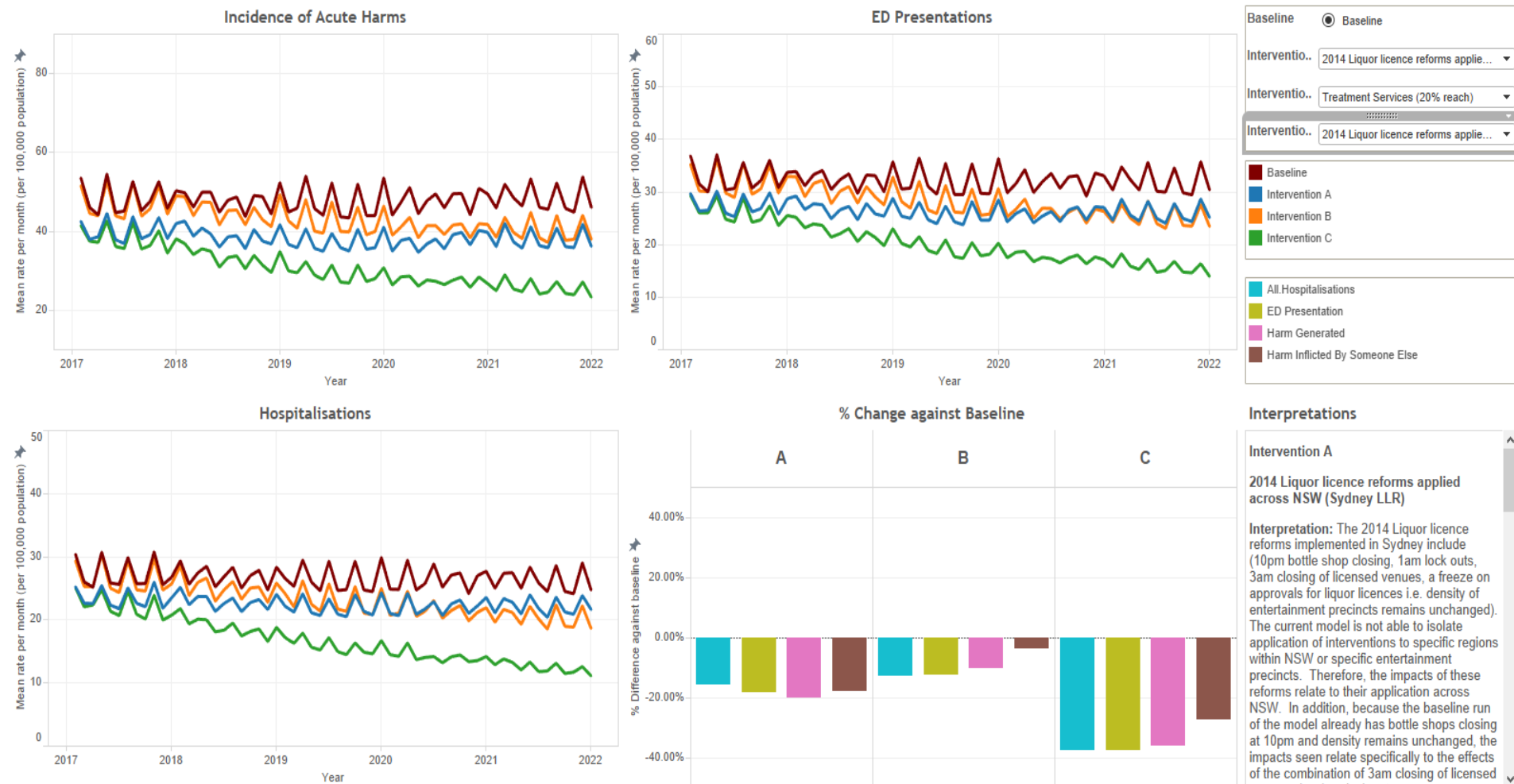
Advertising bans

Minimum pricing

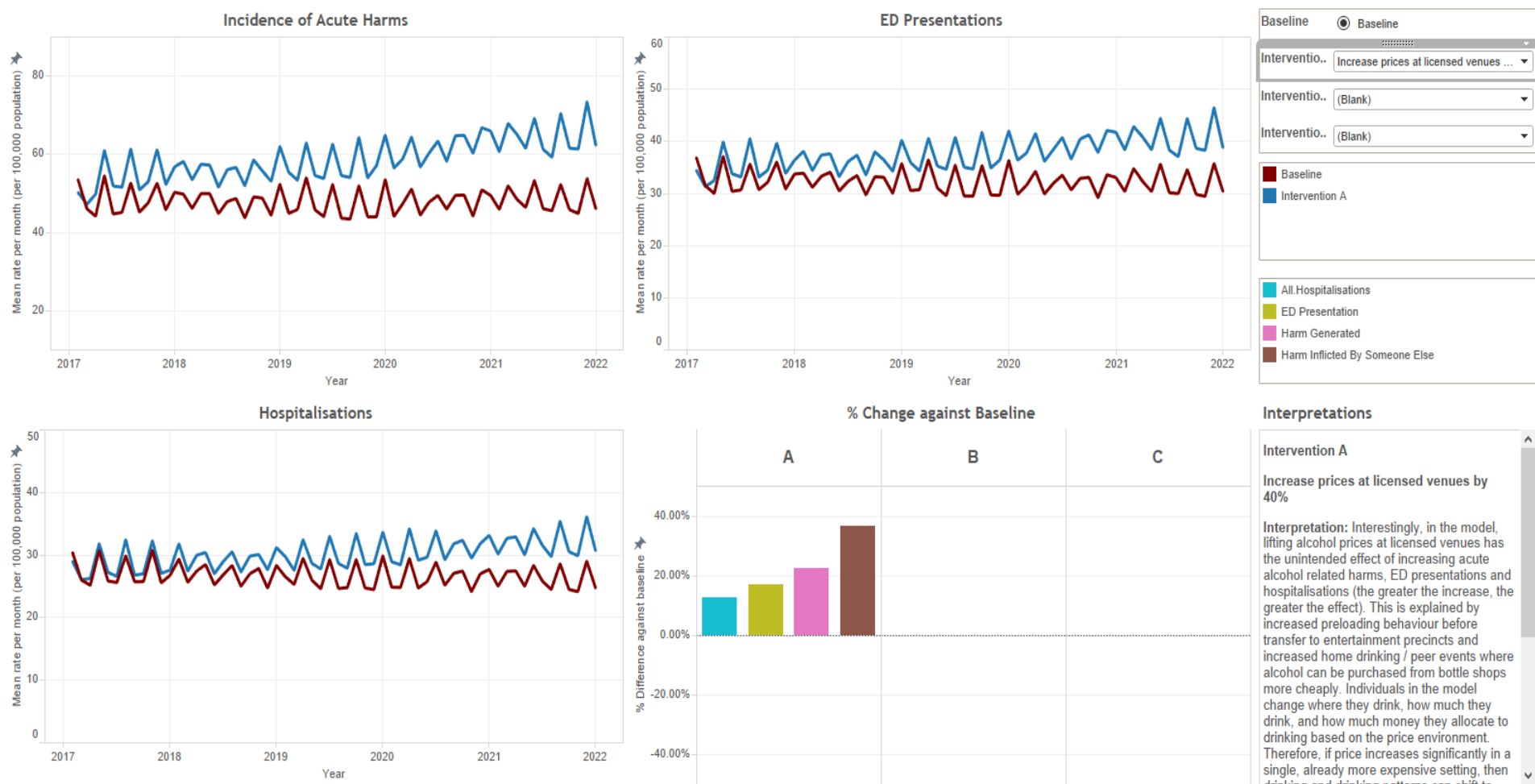
Enhanced enforcement of RSA



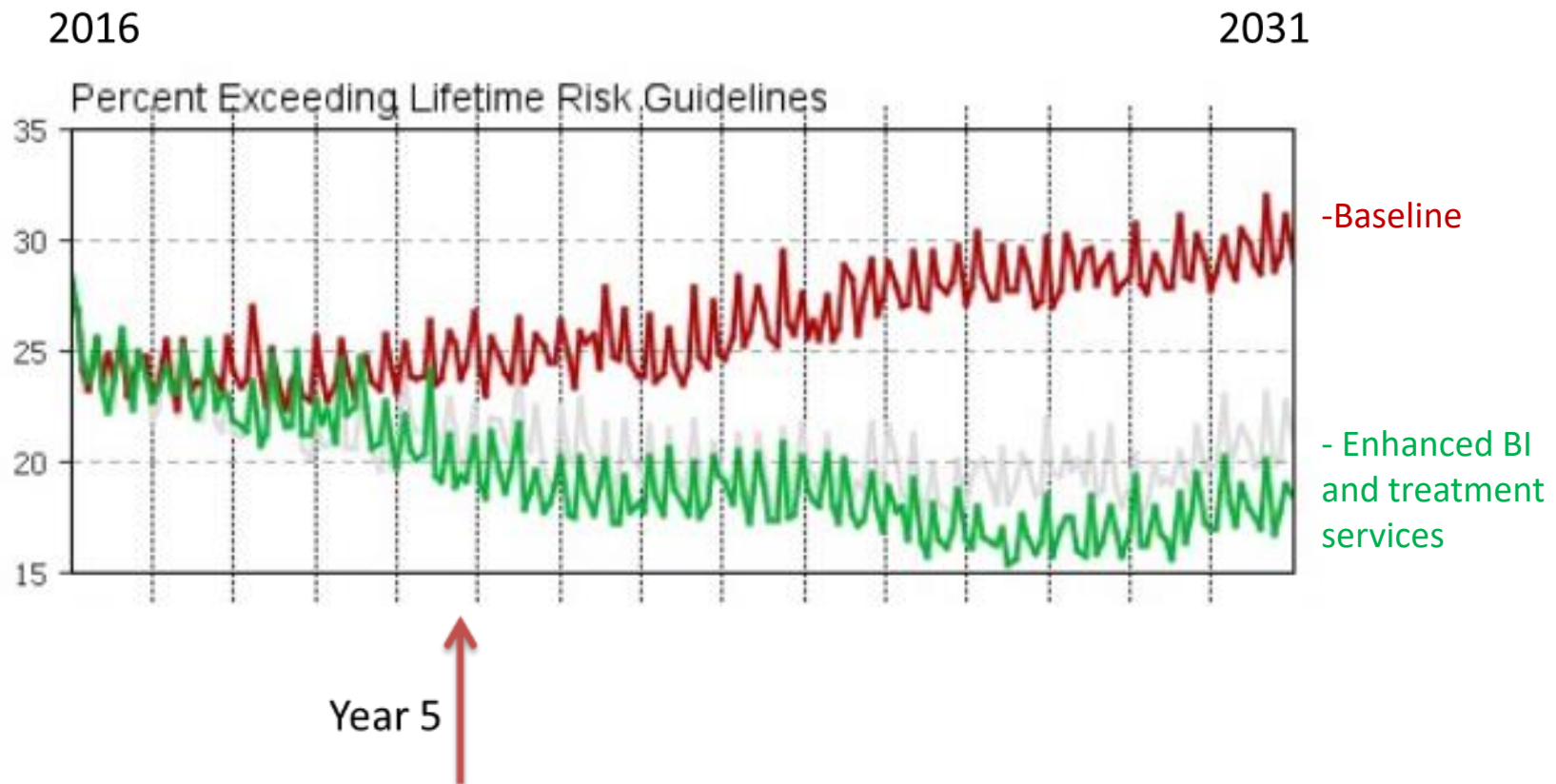
The effects of combining multiple interventions are not necessarily additive



Some interventions can have unintended consequences



The effect of interventions can grow stronger over time with impacts not seen within a policy cycle



NEW SOUTH WALES HEALTH - CHILDHOOD OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY -



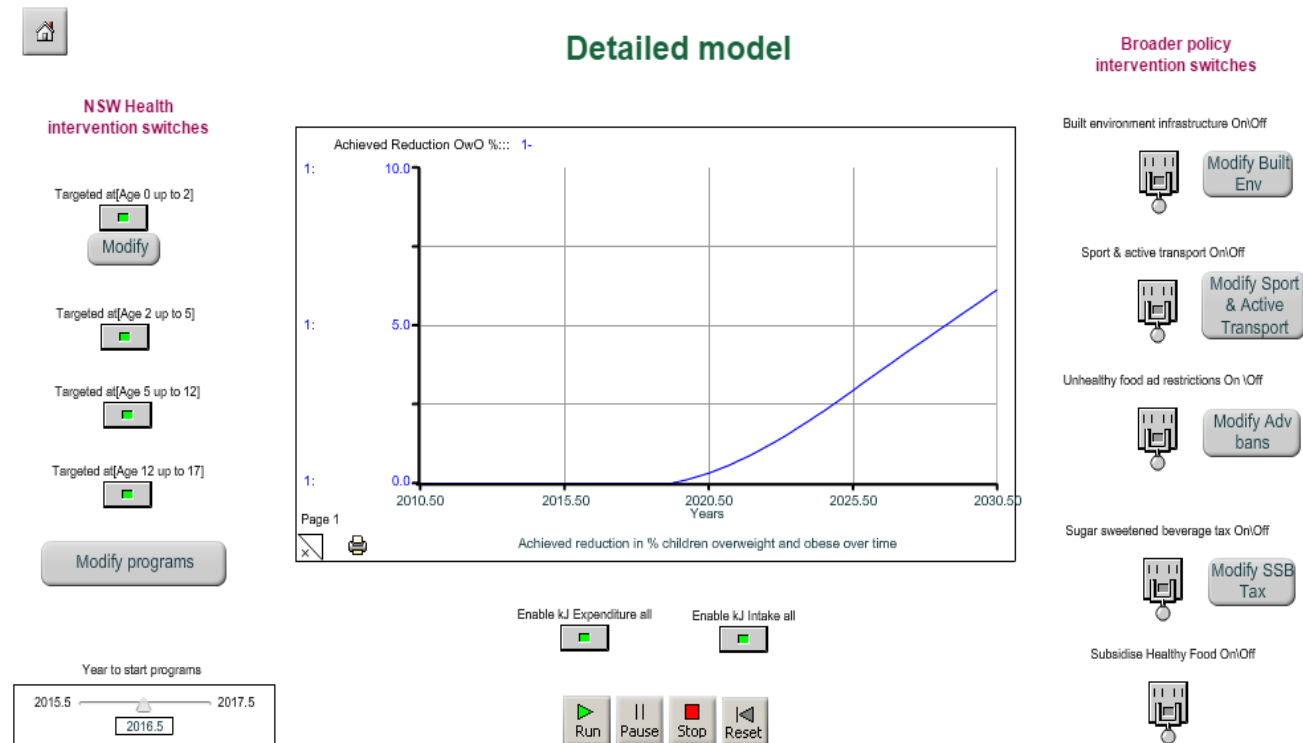
How to achieve the premier's target for reducing childhood overweight and obesity?

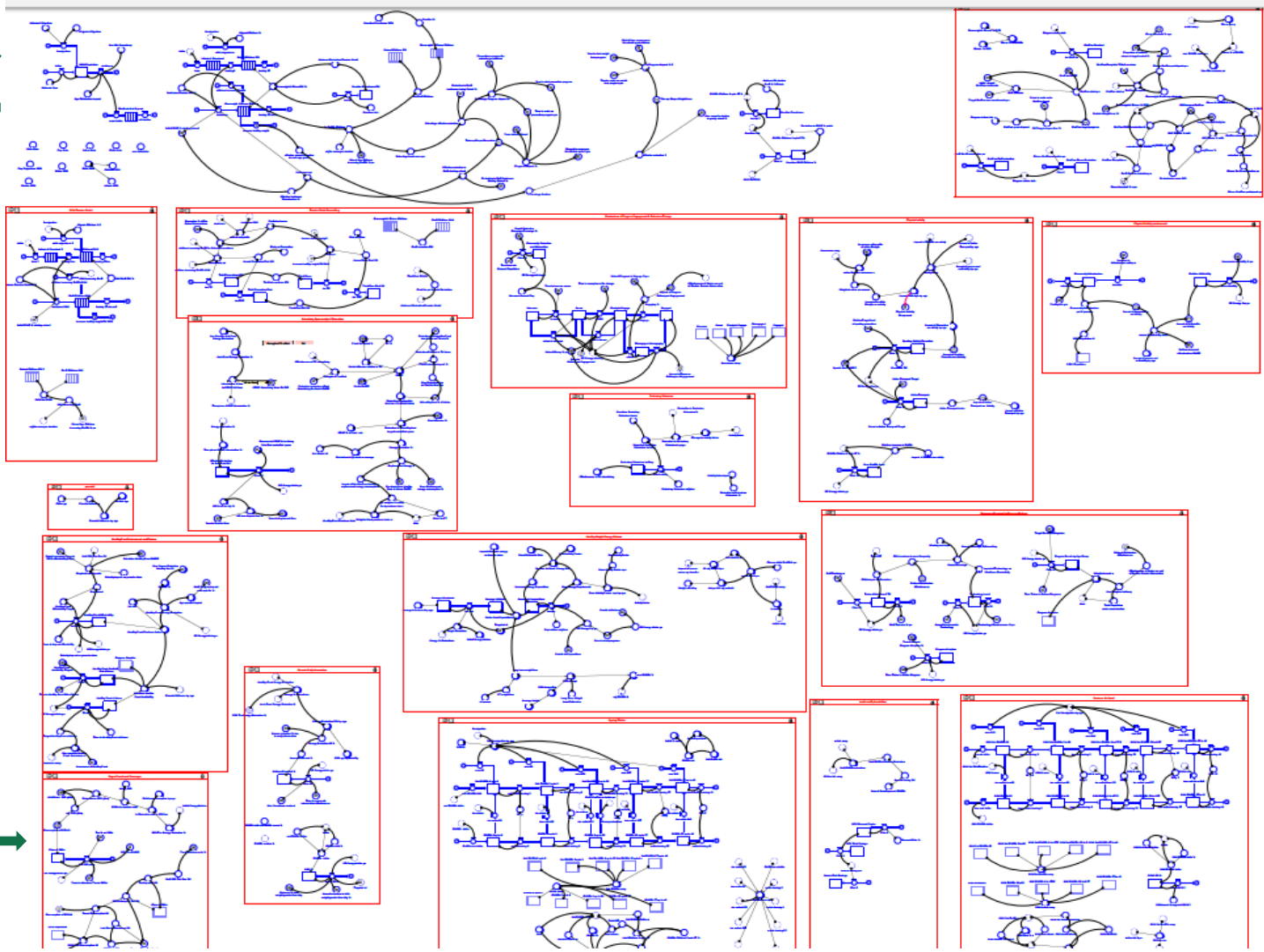
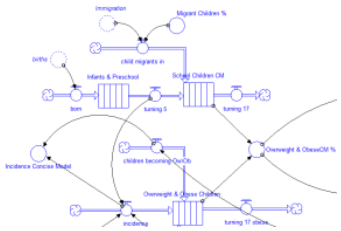
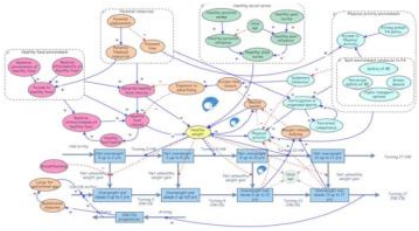
■ Policy partners and collaborators:

- NSW Health
 - Centre for Population Health
 - Office of Preventive Health
- NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Multidisciplinary academic and clinical stakeholders

Modelling the Premier's Priority

Reducing Childhood Overweight and Obesity





Modelling the Premier's Priority


Reducing Childhood Overweight and Obesity





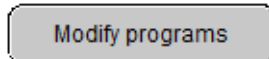
Detailed model

NSW Health intervention switches


- Targeted at[Age 0 up to 2]



- Targeted at[Age 2 up to 5]

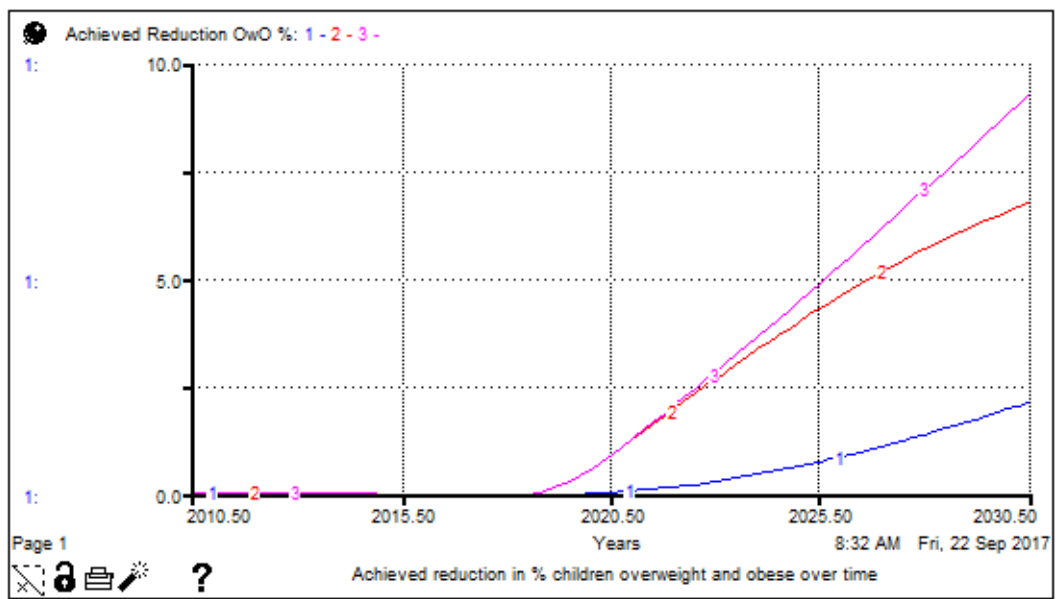
- Targeted at[Age 5 up to 12]

- Targeted at[Age 12 up to 17]






Year to start programs





2015.5  2017.5

2016.5 


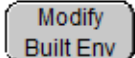



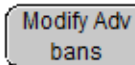

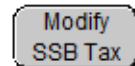



Enable kJ Expenditure all 

Enable kJ Intake all 

Broader policy intervention switches

- Built environment infrastructure On/Off


- Sport & active transport On/Off


- Unhealthy food ad restrictions On/Off


- Sugar sweetened beverage tax On/Off


- Subsidise Healthy Food On/Off


ACT HEALTH

- DIABETES IN PREGNANCY -



ACT Health – Diabetes in pregnancy tripartite model

Project aim:

- To develop a dynamic simulation model to inform the best investments for prevention and management of diabetes in pregnancy
- To be able to test both clinical and population health interventions

Modellers: Nate Osgood, Geoff McDonnell, Yang Qin, Anahita Safarishahrbiari, Allan McLean, Winchell Qian



INTERACTIVE INTERFACES

Interactive user interfaces

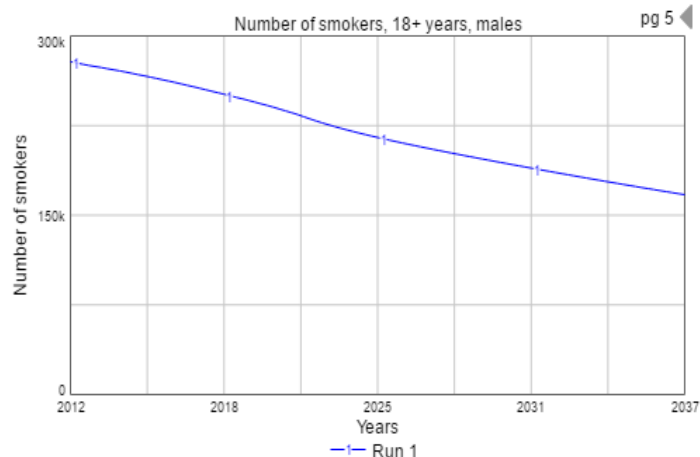
Modelling strategies to address smoking in Queensland

A decision-support tool for reducing smoking-related harm

Model sectors

- Population
- Smoking prevalence
- Initiation
- Cessation and relapse
- Mental health
- E-cigarettes
- Smoking-related disease
- Release notes

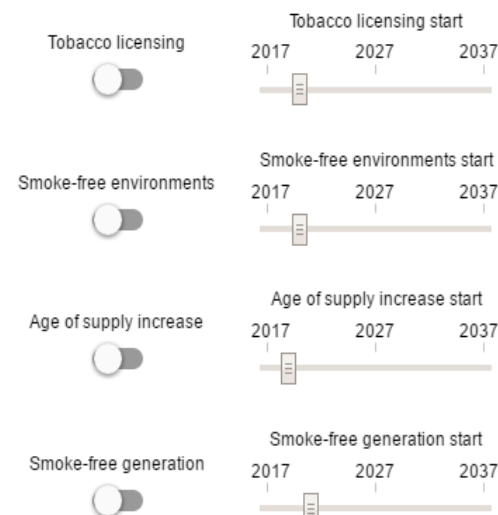
Simulation results



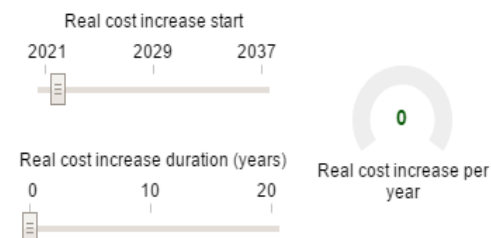
Sub-populations

Costs

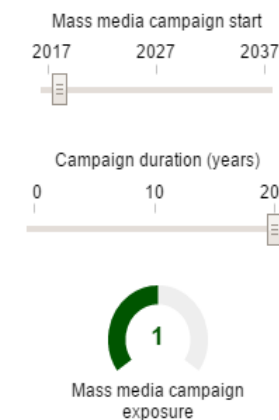
Accessibility and acceptability of tobacco



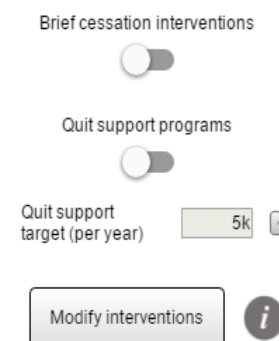
Affordability of tobacco



Appeal of tobacco



Agency to quit tobacco

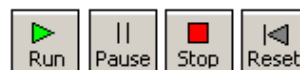
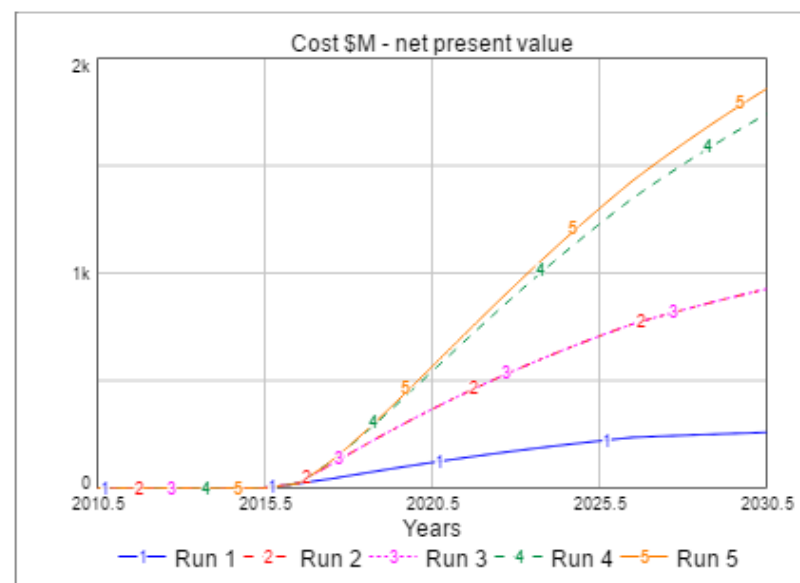
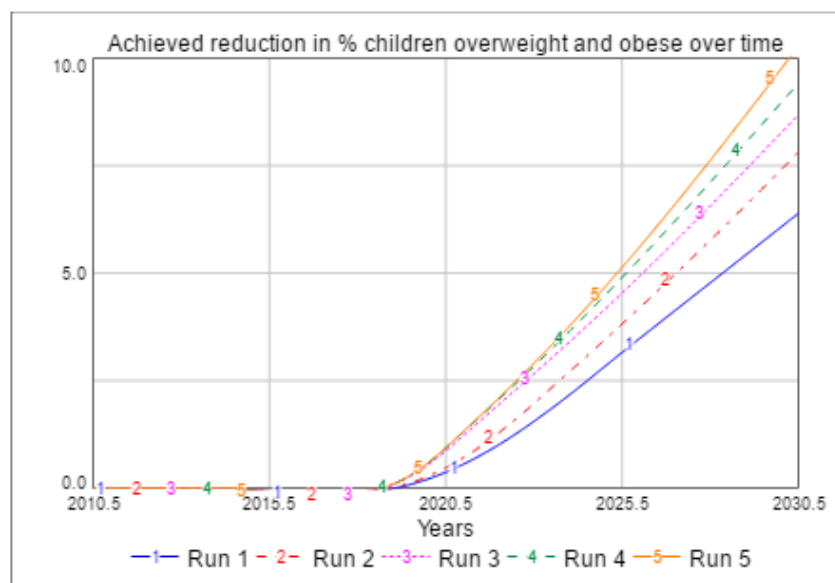


Modelling the NSW Premier's Priority

Reducing Childhood Overweight and Obesity



- The Nature of the Problem
- Population Structure
- Prevention interventions
- Weight loss interventions
- Key model assumptions
- Cost interface
- Start Stella Live
- Stop Stella Live
- Export data from graphs



NSW Health intervention switches

Programs targeted at ages 2 to 5



Programs targeted at age 0 to 2



Programs targeted at ages 5 to 12



Programs targeted at ages 12 to 17



Max % mothers reached



Broader policy intervention switches

Built environment infrastructure



Active Kids program



Water fountains



Active transport and sports



Unhealthy food ad restrictions



Sugar sweetened beverage tax



Subsidies for healthy food



Energy intake alone



Energy expenditure alone



Release Notes

OandO V878
TAPPC 22 Dec 2017

Interactive user interfaces

Background

The Magnitude of the Problem

Key question model aims to address

Indicative Model Structure

Trans-diagnostic stepped care

Unfurl the model

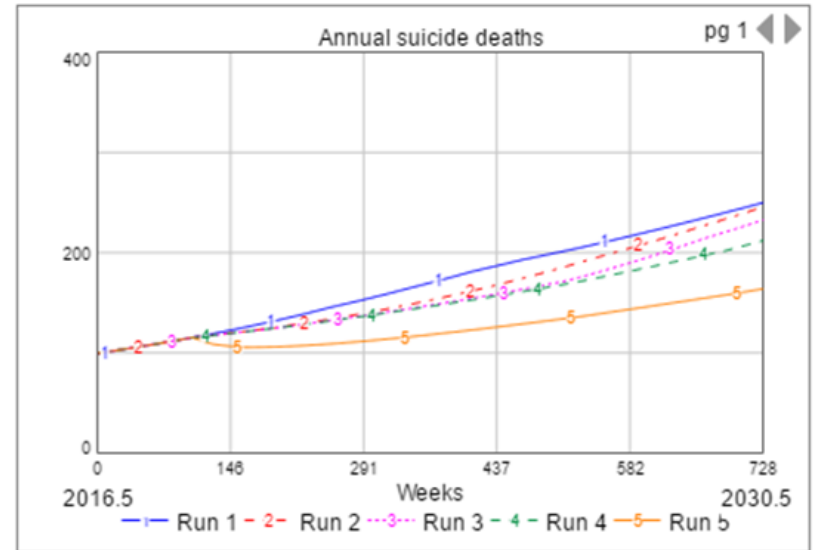
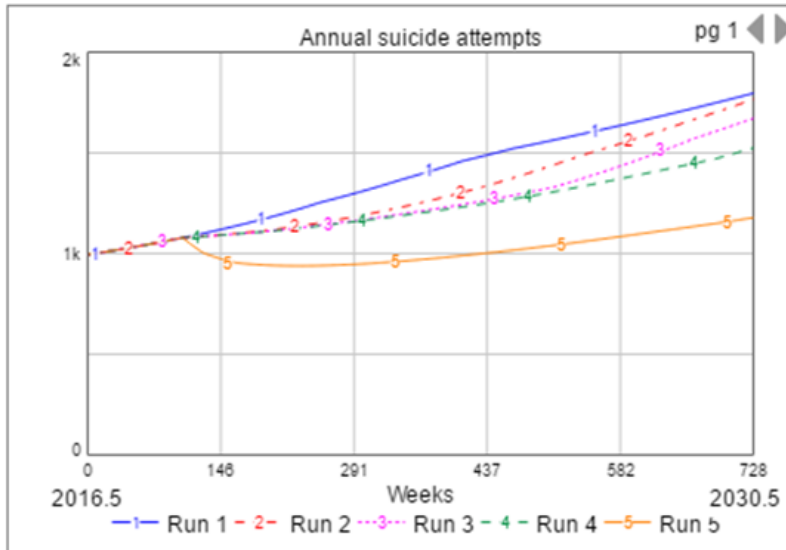
Intervention mechanisms

Start Stella Live

Stop Stella Live

Export data from graphs

Western Sydney suicide prevention decision support tool



Specific suicide prevention interventions

Post suicide attempt assertive aftercare



GP / Gatekeeper training



Suicide helpline and call-back service



Modify community infrastructure spend per annum



Community Support



Mental health interventions

Mental Health Hospital to Home Service



Sub-acute community Mx of severe mental disorder



New intervention to re-engage those lost to services



Online / technology enabled care



Headspace



Reduction % pa

45

Mental health service planning

Modify hospital staffing and training



Staff increase % pa

2

Annual training units

5

Modify secondary MH service capacity



Extra beds pa

5

Modify non-secondary MH service capacity



Extra non-sec practitioners pa

5

Grow assessment capacity



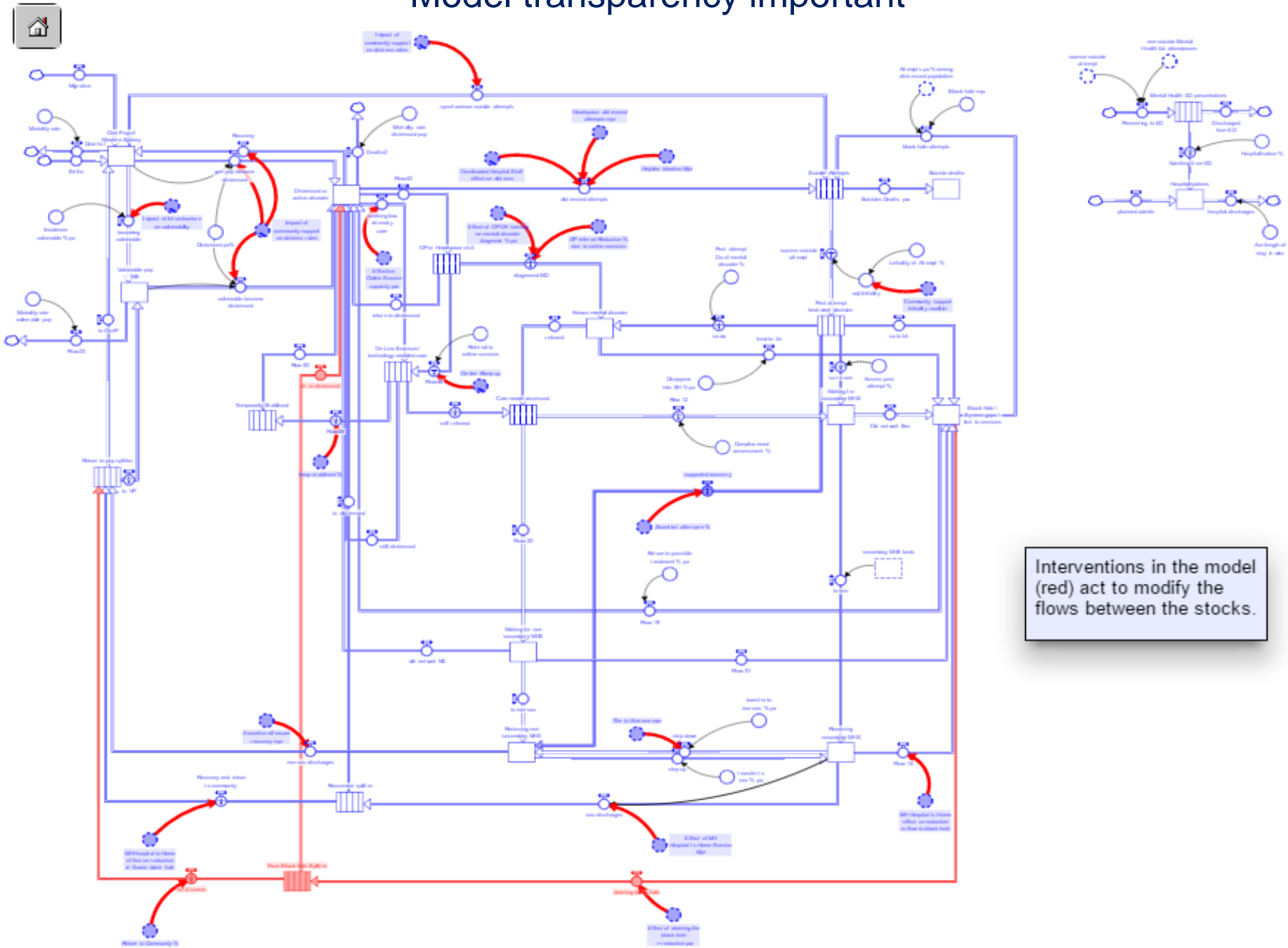
% increase pa

2

Release Notes

WW V708
11 Jan 2018

Model transparency important



Interactive user interfaces

Background

The Magnitude of the Problem

Key question model aims to address

Indicative Model Structure

Trans-diagnostic stepped care

Unfurl the model

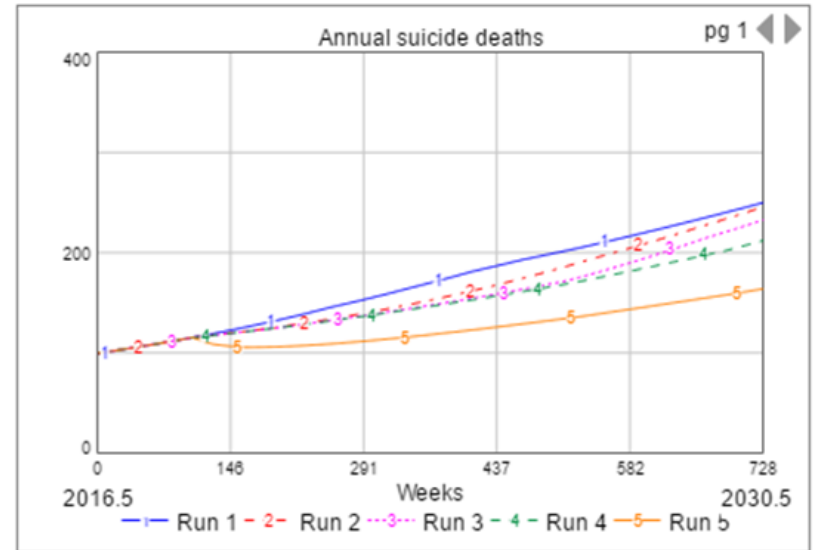
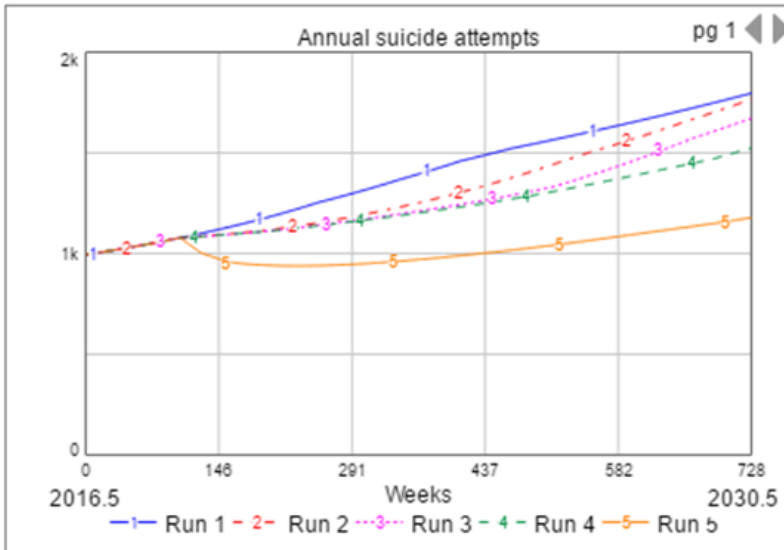
Intervention mechanisms

Start Stella Live

Stop Stella Live

Export data from graphs

Western Sydney suicide prevention decision support tool



Specific suicide prevention interventions

Post suicide attempt assertive aftercare



GP / Gatekeeper training



Suicide helpline and call-back service



Modify community infrastructure spend per annum



Community Support



Mental health interventions

Mental Health Hospital to Home Service



Sub-acute community Mx of severe mental disorder



New intervention to re-engage those lost to services



Online / technology enabled care



Headspace



Reduction % pa

45

Mental health service planning

Modify hospital staffing and training



Staff increase % pa



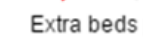
Annual training units



Modify secondary MH service capacity



Extra beds pa



Modify non-secondary MH service capacity



Extra non-sec practitioners pa



Grow assessment capacity



% increase pa



Release Notes

WW V708
11 Jan 2018

Intervention control panel

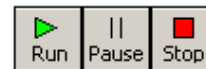
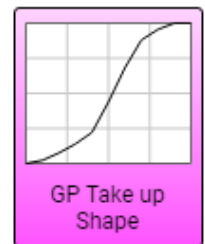
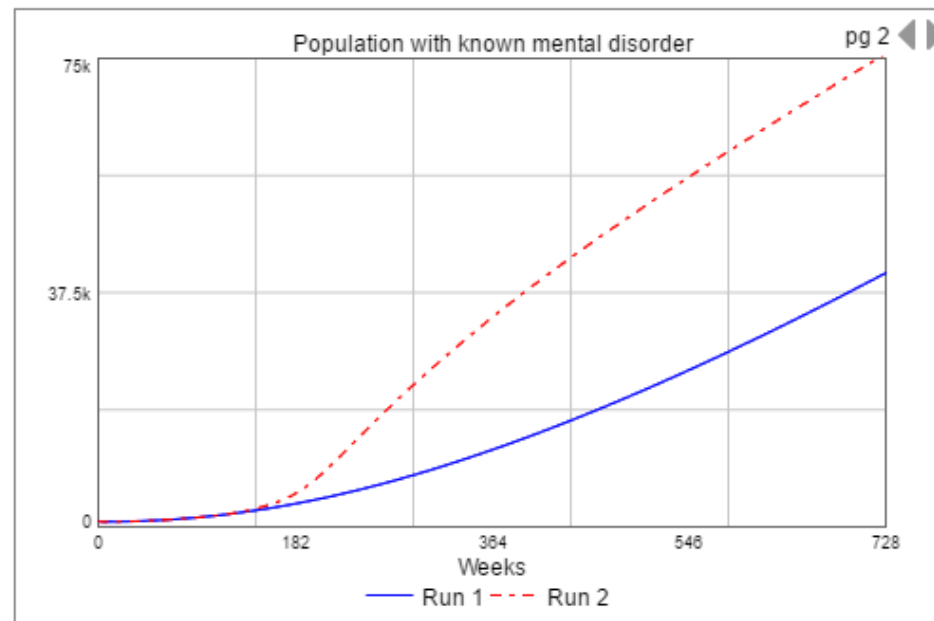
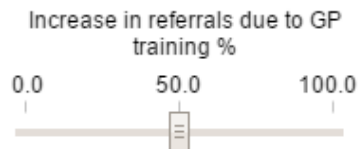


About GP & Gatekeeper Training

Mechanism



GP and gatekeeper training control panel

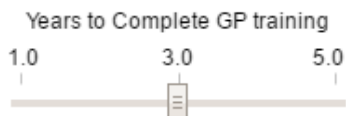
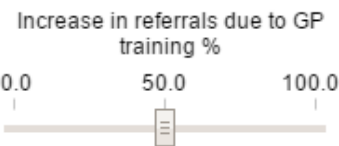


Intervention control panel



About GP & Gatekeeper Training

Mechanism



GP and gatekeeper training control panel

GP and gatekeeper training is aimed at reducing suicidal ideation through referral to services. This includes people who may be thinking about suicide for the first time or have survived a previous attempt.

In the model, this intervention acts to improve mental disorder diagnosis and referral to appropriate care.

The mechanism and estimates of effect for this intervention are informed by expert and local knowledge and:

Alison Milner, Katrina Witt, Jane Pirkis, Sarah Hetrick, Jo Robinson, Dianne Currier, Matthew Spittal, Andrew Page, Gregory Carter (2017). *The effectiveness of suicide prevention delivered by GPs: A systematic review and meta-analysis*. Journal of Affective Disorders, 210: 294-302.

Kerry Knox, David Litts, Wayne Talcott, Jill Catalano Feig, Eric Caine (2003). *Ris of suicide and related adverse outcomes after exposure to a suicide prevention programme in the US Air Force: cohort study*. BMJ, 327: 1376.

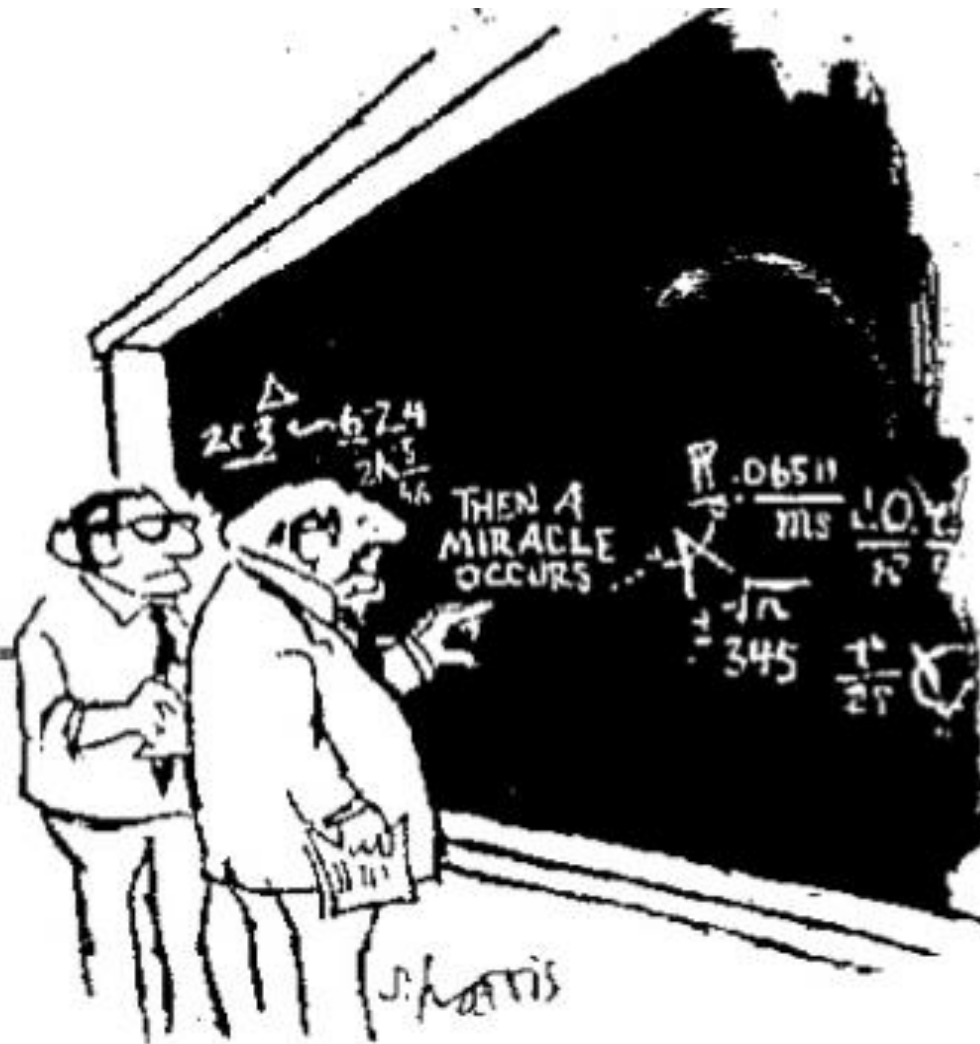
Michael Isaac, Brenda Elias, Laurence Katz, et. al. (2009). *Gatekeeper Training as a Preventative Intervention for Suicide: A Systematic Review*. Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, 54(4):260-268.

Harrod CS, Goss, CW, Stallones L, DiGuseppi, C (2014). *Interventions for primary prevention of suicide in university and other post-secondary educational settings*. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 10: DOI: 10.1002/14651858.

Henriksson, S, Isacson, G (2006). *Increased antidepressant use and fewer suicides in Jamtland county, Sweden, after a primary care educational programme on the treatment of depression*. Acta Psychiatr Scand, 114:159-167.



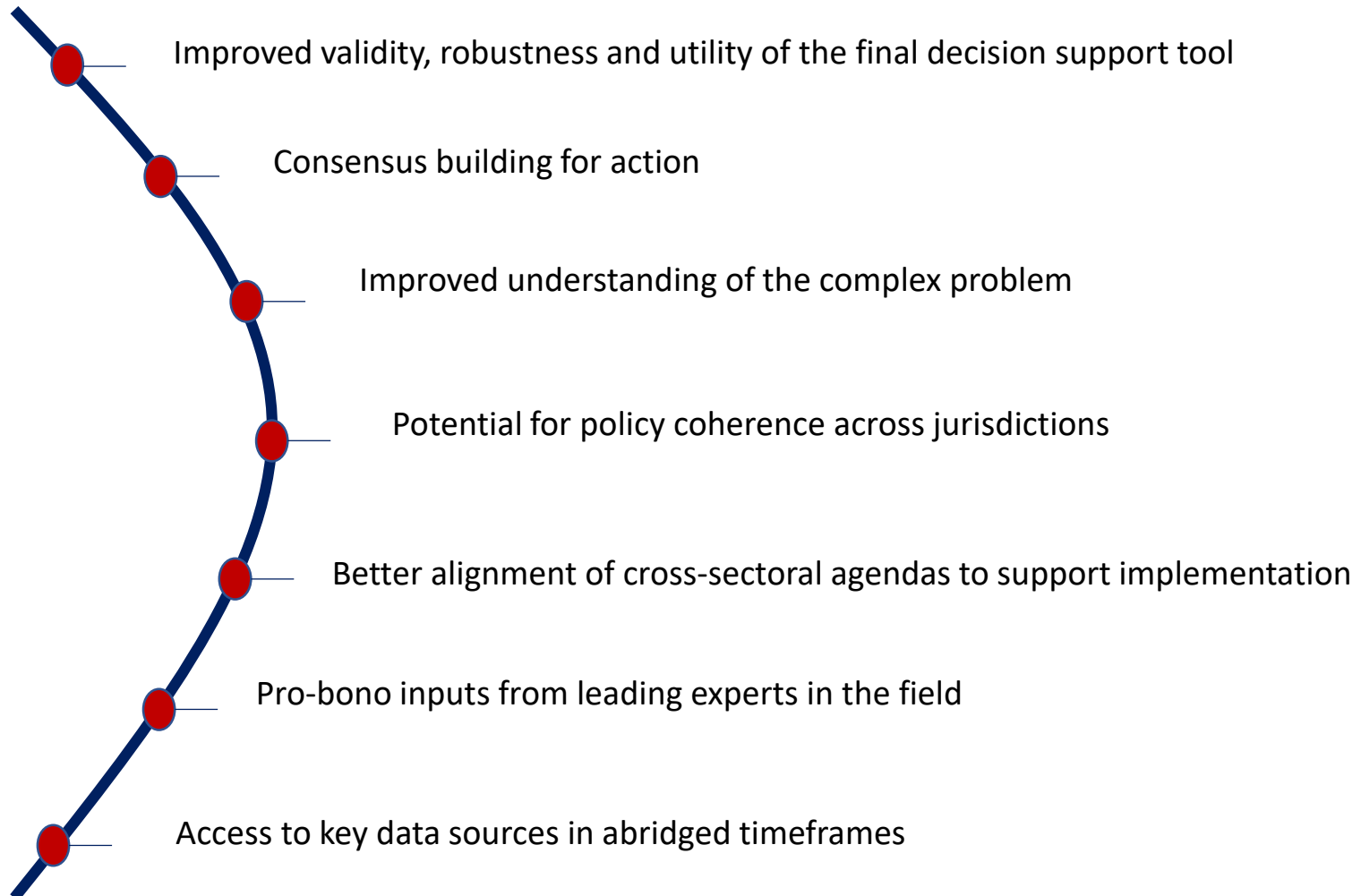
ADVANTAGES OF THE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH



'I think you should be more explicit here in step 2.'

Our Approach | Participatory

Integrated modelling techniques with best available evidence, data and expert knowledge



Use of our models | Driving Change

- To support recommendations in ministerial briefs.
- To inform investment decisions by health and government departments and program commissioning decisions in the primary care setting.
- To facilitate the engagement of broader stakeholders in strategy dialogues and consensus building for action.
- Help set realistic targets for impact / manage expectations regarding progress towards targets set.
- Use as advocacy tools and to add strength to business cases for longer term funding.
- Demonstrate the consequences of disinvestment in programs.
- Help identify priorities for data collection / research.



Thank you

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