

Appendix E: Public Health Functions Described by WHO^{69 70}

WHO

The World Health Organization used a Delphi approach surveying 138 people from around the world. Nine categories were used to group together 37 essential functions:

- Prevention, surveillance and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases; monitoring the health situation;
- Health promotion;
- Occupational health;
- Protecting the environment;
- Public health legislation and regulation;
- Public health management;
- Specific public health services
- Personal health care for vulnerable and high risk populations.

WHO – Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region office of WHO presented the following nine essential functions at their September 2002 meeting:

- Health situation monitoring and analysis;
- Epidemiological surveillance/disease prevention and control;
- Development of policies and planning in public health;
- Strategic management of health systems and services for population health gains;
- Regulation and enforcement to protect public health;
- Human resources development and planning in public health;
- Health promotion, social participation and empowerment;
- Ensuring the quality of personal and population-based health services;
- Research, development and implementation of innovative public health solutions.

⁶⁹ an excerpt from Moloughney, B. Core Functions Of Public Health – A Very Brief Review,

Prepared for: National Ad Hoc Steering Committee on the Future of Public Health. December 11, 2002 (Draft).

⁷⁰ Moloughney, B. (December 11, 2002).