The initiative supports place-based collaborations between health, social services and local governments and emergency services in areas of Melbourne with high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, and higher temperatures during heatwaves (based on the Monash Heat Vulnerability Index).

There are two projects underway led by community health organisation IPC Health in Brimbank and Primary Care Partnership enliven in Dandenong. The experience to date has been that the community has been engaged in this work and a clear need has been identified to develop knowledge of climate change and health across all project partners.

The initiative has engaged all CoP services and other organisations (e.g., community groups and local government) to develop knowledge, engage community networks and disseminate information about heat health to community members.

The collaborative approach between partners opened-up new networks for health promotion information distribution, providing many new contacts for enliven and the City of Greater Dandenong’s Environment and Sustainability team. The project provided an opportunity for health and environment teams to work together and disseminate the same messages.

The Keep Cool in Summer health promotion material was produced in various formats including: postcards, A4 posters, A3 posters, drink bottle labels. This material was adapted with permission from the Yarra City Council’s Keep Cool in Yarra campaign.

The positive outcomes of these projects are focused on the health and wellbeing of those experiencing disadvantage, a co-benefit of this work is the capacity building of health and social service organisations in relation to responding to the health inequities exacerbated by climate change.

EVALUATION

The Hot Spots initiative is being independently evaluated to ascertain what are the components of an effective response to reduce heat vulnerability in low income communities using a cross-sector collaborative approach?