Competencies that support health policy capacity include:

Knowledge and experience

- **contextual knowledge** – of institutional and administrative arrangements, and contemporary policy environments
- **sectoral knowledge** – of the health and/or human services field generally
- **historical and comparative knowledge** – including the genealogy and track record of various dynamics, models and methods in health and welfare systems
- **theory from across the academic disciplines** – and the ability to use such theory in description, analysis, interpretation, explanation and strategy

Skills of policy practice

- **basic working skills** – research and evaluation; writing (and re-drafting); communication skills (both exposition and listening)
- **skills in functional (rational) analysis** – ability to name the problem, articulate causes, identify and evaluate options, and use evidence to evaluate causes and options
- **skills in political analysis** – ability to map the political field, conceive interventions, imagine, project and evaluate scenarios
- **inter-sectoral skills** – capacity to communicate and work across different disciplines and sectors

Personal attributes

- creativity, intuition and judgement