# VCAA Glossary

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| **Burden of disease** | A measure of the impact of diseases and injuries, specifically it measures the gap between current health status and an ideal situation where everyone lives to an old age free of disease and disability. Burden of disease is measured in a unit called the DALY. |
| **Disability adjusted life year (DALY)** | A measure of burden of disease, one DALY equals one year of healthy life lost due to premature death and time lived with illness, disease or injury. |
| **Health** | ‘A complete state of physical, social and mental wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.’ (WHO, 1946) |
| **Health Adjusted Life Expectancy (HALE)** | A measure of burden of disease based on life expectancy at birth, but including an adjustment for time spent in poor health. It is the number of years in full health that a person can expect to live, based on current rates of ill health andmortality. |
| **Health status** | ‘An individual’s or a population’s overall health, taking into account various aspects such as life expectancy, amount of disability and levels of disease risk factors.’ (AIHW,2008) |
| **Human development** | Creating an environment in which people can develop to their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. It is aboutexpanding people’s choices and enhancing capabilities (the range of things people can be and do), having access to knowledge, health and a decent standard of living, and participating in the life of their community and decisions affecting their lives.  |
| **Human Development Index** | A measurement of human development which combines indicators of life expectancy, educational levels and income. The Human Development Index provides asingle statistic which can be used as a reference for both social and economic development. (UN Development Programme, 1990)  |
| **Life expectancy** | ‘An indication of how long a person can expect live, it is the number of years of life remaining to a person at a particular age if death rates do not change.’ (AIHW, 2008)Morbidity ‘Refers to ill health in an individual and the levels of ill health in a population or group.’ (AIHW, 2008)  |
| **Prevalence** | ‘The number or proportion of cases of a particular disease or condition present in a population at a given time.’ |
| **Incidence** | The number of new cases of an illness or event occurring during a given period |