

NATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the 157th meeting
held on Tuesday, 19 April 2005
at the Ministry of Health, 133 Molesworth Street**

Present: Andrew Moore
Gwen Tepania-Palmer
Linda Holloway
Geoff Fougere
Riripeti Haretuku
Robert Logan (Chair)
Sara Georgeson
Lynette Stewart

In Attendance: Louise Thornley, Senior Analyst
Margaret Earle, Manager
Diana Cookson, Analyst
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)
Barbara Langford, Senior Advisor (Public Health)
Angela Faherty, Executive Assistant (for specific items)
Trish Green, Communications Advisor (morning only)

Welcome

The Chair advised that the Minister had appointed Phil Shoemack to fill the vacancy on the NHC. Phil will also be a member of the PHAC. He attended the PHAC meeting the previous afternoon but was unable to attend this month's NHC meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

Apologies received from Neil Pearce, Api Talemaitoga, Kevin Hague and Phil Shoemack.

Agenda Item 2: Table all papers

Correspondence (see agenda item 6).
Financial Summary (see agenda item 3)

Agenda Item 3: Financial update

The financial summary was tabled and discussed.

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the March teleconference

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Agenda Item 5: Matters arising

- *Feedback on teleconference process* – members were positive about the experience of holding the March meeting by teleconference. It was felt that teleconferences were useful when issues were not complex and for signing off work during the final stages of projects. It was agreed to keep the arrangement of meeting face-to-face on alternate months under review.

Agenda Item 6: Correspondence

The committee noted the following inward correspondence:

- National Ethics Advisory Committee's Third Annual Report
- Ross Thomson, from Christchurch, regarding the 'don't share spit' education campaign
- Richard Crowe, from Arthritis Action, regarding lack of availability of new drugs for arthritis
- Australian Department of Health and Ageing and Medsafe regarding consultation on labelling requirements for medicines under the proposed joint Australia-New Zealand Therapeutic Products Regulatory Agency

It was agreed that the Chair and secretariat would draft a reply to the letter from the Advisory Group to the National Testing Centre, regarding the use of newborn metabolic samples to determine the prevalence of HIV infection in pregnancy (tabled at the February NHC meeting).

Agenda Item 7: Conferences

- *Carers Forum* – Lynette Stewart reported on the national forum held in March by Carers NZ. The forum made significant mention of the NHC's 1998 discussion document *How Should We Care for the Carers?* and Lynette was invited to give a keynote presentation at the forum. It was agreed to write to the Minister drawing her attention to the link between the NHC document and the recent forum.
- *Living Well southern conference* – secretariat staff reported on the first of the Living Well with Chronic Illness conferences, held in Christchurch the previous week. The NHC workshop at the conference generated input for the committee's chronic conditions project.
- *10th European Quality conference* – Robert Logan reported that in the conference presentations there was a big emphasis on innovation and risk-taking to bridge the gap between increasing demand for health services and static or decreasing resources.
- *Request to sponsor NZ Guidelines Group consumer summit* – members discussed the background paper outlining the NZGG's proposal to hold a consumer summit later in the year. Concern was expressed that it was planned to hold a hui after the summit which would mean that it would be difficult for Maori perspectives to be included in the summit discussions. The question was also raised as to how the findings from the summit would be taken further. It was agreed that the Chair would meet with the NZGG to get further clarification on these matters.

Agenda Item 7: PHAC report back

The Chair of the PHAC reported back on current PHAC projects, including:

- *Public Health Sector Overview project* – the PHAC is rethinking the structure of the report to the Minister. This project will be discussed in detail at the PHAC meeting in May
- *Health Impact Assessment (HIA)* – an evaluation of the HIA summer school has been completed, which was positive

- *Determinants of Child Health* – it is proposed to hold a meeting with key thinkers in the child health arena to develop a framework for the project
- Mark Jacobs, the newly appointed Director of Public Health, met with PHAC and outlined his experiences and vision for public health.

Agenda Item 9 Visit to Tairāwhiti DHB (16 & 17 May 2005)

The proposed programme prepared by Tairāwhiti DHB was discussed and some minor amendments made.

Agenda Item 10 Work Programme

Agenda Item 10.1 People with Chronic Conditions

The secretariat outlined the three case studies to which the committee had previously agreed. It was proposed that people with an intellectual disability who have chronic conditions be included in the case study focusing on people from 'under-served' populations. The suggestion was made that several contractors could contribute to this case study, each with expertise in seeking the views of particular populations groups (eg Māori, disabled people). The committee indicated that the priority for contracting the case studies should be on the basis of availability of suitable contractors. NHC members gave further suggestions for contractors to approach with a request for proposals.

Agenda Item 10.2 Prioritisation

It was agreed to defer discussion on the paper detailing possible project on prioritisation until after the work on new health interventions is completed. Committee members reiterated that the paper was a helpful foundation document for this discussion.

Agenda Item 10.3 Work planning

This session was chaired by Linda Holloway. The Manager spoke to the background paper and indicated when it was likely that the secretariat would have capacity to begin scoping new areas of work. It was agreed that:

- the priorities for the PHAC also needed to be figured in, particularly secretariat capacity
- discussion on whether to develop a new project on prioritisation be deferred until the new health interventions project had been completed
- priority be given to scoping a new project relating to disability support, possibly following on from the NHC's document *How Should We Care for the Carers?*
- discussion on the work programme be continued at the June meeting.

Sara Georgeson and Robert Logan will be meeting with the Office for Disability Issues following the NHC meeting and will report back on this to the June meeting. Geraldine Woods, the new Deputy Director-General for Disability Support has agreed to address the June NHC meeting.

The Manager advised that work was progressing on a stocktake of the committees' previous projects. The first stage, a catalogue of project has been compiled. The second stage involves identifying what actions have been taken as a result of committee recommendations.

It was noted that it appears that no action has been taken so far on the NHC's recommendations on genetic testing. Secretariat to follow this up further with the Ministry of Health.

Agenda Item 11 Brief Updates

Agenda Item 11.1 Smoking Cessation Guidelines

The NZGG has been contracted to review the use of the NHC's smoking cessation guidelines. Key informant interviews have been held and a questionnaire is being drafted to gather information from the range of people who use the guidelines.

Agenda Item 11.2 New Health Interventions

The NHC's report on decision-making about new health interventions will be launched at the DHB's CEO's meeting on 30 May. The Minister is holding a meeting with some key DHB people the week prior to the launch. A communications strategy will be developed in conjunction with the Minister's office.

Agenda Item 11.3 Antenatal HIV Screening

The Ministry of Health's advice on antenatal HIV screening has yet to be sent to the Minister.

Farewell

Committee members farewelled Mark Booth (previous manager of the secretariat) and thanked him for all his leadership of the secretariat and his contributions to the work of the committee.

Next meeting

The next NHC meeting will be held on Monday 16 May in Gisborne.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date