

## NATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the 155th meeting  
held on Tuesday, 15 February 2005  
at the Ministry of Health, 133 Molesworth Street**

**Present:** Althea Page-Carruth  
Andrew Moore  
Api Talemaitoga  
Gwen Tepania-Palmer  
Kevin Hague  
Linda Holloway  
Geoff Fougere  
Riripeti Haretuku  
Robert Logan (Chair)  
Sara Georgeson  
Lynette Stewart

**In Attendance:** Angela Faherty, Executive Assistant  
Fiona Rutherford, Analyst  
Louise Thornley, Senior Analyst  
Margaret Earle, Acting Manager  
Nicholas Huntington, Analyst  
Diana Cookson, Analyst  
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)

### **Welcome**

Committee members welcomed Diana Cookson and Charmaine Ross who had joined the secretariat staff since the last NHC meeting.

### **Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Apologies received from Neil Pearce.

### **Agenda Item 2: Table all papers**

None tabled.

### **Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

### **Agenda Item 4: Matters arising**

- *Change to Terms of Reference* – members noted the change that had been made to enable a member to be appointed by the Minister for an additional one year
- *Change to meeting details* – members noted that bimonthly meetings were being trialed for the next six months but that they should keep the days of cancelled meetings available for teleconferences or sponsors' meetings
- *Finance* – members expressed concern about the lack of detailed financial information.

### **Agenda Item 5: Correspondence**

A letter received from Bioethics Council regarding discussion document on *Animal-to-Human Transplantation* was noted.

It was agreed to discuss correspondence relating to antenatal HIV screening under agenda item 9.3.

### **Agenda Item 6: Conference reports**

A list of forthcoming conferences was circulated for members' information.

The Chair of PHAC reported that the PHAC had recommended sponsorship be provided to two forthcoming conferences:

- The Public Health Association of NZ conference on 6-8 July 2005 (\$5,000)
- The NZ Association of Impact Assessment conference on 28-29 April 2005 (up to \$5,000 depending on budget availability).

It was agreed that the PHAC would provide sponsorship for these two conferences.

### **Agenda Item 7: PHAC report back**

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

- *Public Health Sector Overview project* – submissions have been analysed. Workshops being held with Māori and with Pacific peoples. Advice and recommendations to the Minister are to be developed
- *Health Impact Assessment (HIA)* – meetings have been held with a number of agencies to increase understanding of and interest in HIA, and identify potential case studies
- *Determinants of Child Health* – meetings are to be held with agencies working in this area to identify potential focuses for the PHAC's project and how the PHAC can add value beyond the work that is already happening
- *Men's health* – the completed literature review was discussed and a brief report to the Minister is to be developed.

The PHAC will hold a teleconference on Monday 14 March, rather than a face-to-face meeting.

### **Agenda Item 8 Work Programme**

#### **Agenda Item 8.1 New Health Interventions**

The committee was updated on recent developments in this project including sponsors' meetings, the brief report sent to the Minister in December 2004 and recent meetings with stakeholders. The draft advice to the Minister of Health on decision-making about new health interventions was discussed. There was strong support for the direction of the report and the wording of the recommendations was discussed in detail.

It was agreed that the report would not include findings around disability technology as the committee had not yet discussed these in detail and they were inextricably linked with wider issues.

It was agreed that sponsors would comment on the revised report (including through a teleconference on Friday 4 March) and that the final version would be seen by all committee members. The report is to be provided to the Minister in mid-March.

### **Agenda Item 8.2 Prioritisation**

It was agreed to delay discussion on the options paper until the April 2005 meeting, at which time the committee's advice on new health interventions will have been completed.

### **Agenda Item 8.3 Chronic Conditions**

The draft discussion paper was discussed and it was agreed to distribute it widely once some changes had been made. All committee members to receive a copy of the final draft by email for comment prior to distribution. It is planned to distribute the discussion document in March 2005. Secretariat to send planned distribution list to committee members for their input.

Committee members endorsed the NHC's involvement in the *Living Well with Chronic Illness* regional conferences and national summit.

### **Agenda Item 8.4 Māori Health**

Lynette Stewart reported on her meeting with the Deputy-Director General Māori Health about progress with implementing Te Korowai Oranga and Whakatātaka.

### **Agenda Item 8.5 Prostate Cancer**

Representatives of the NHC met with a delegation of urologists and other interested stakeholders in November to discuss their concerns with the NHC's advice on prostate cancer. As a result of issues raised at this meeting, an in-house review was undertaken of the process used for completion of the committee's advice. Following discussion of the report from this review the committee unanimously agreed its advice was robust and appropriate. Clearer terms of reference will be developed for project advisory groups. A letter to those who attended the November meeting will be drafted for the committee's approval.

## **Agenda Item 9 Brief Updates**

### **Agenda Item 9.1 Complementary and Alternative Medicines Conference**

A brief verbal report was given about the conference.

### **Agenda Item 9.2 Smoking Cessation Guidelines**

The secretariat advised that a request for proposals had been sent out but so far no definite proposals had been received.

### **Agenda Item 9.3 Antenatal HIV Screening**

The committee noted the correspondence relating to the NHC's advice on antenatal HIV screening. The Chair and secretariat will shortly meet with the National Screening Unit to discuss the Ministry's response to the NHC's advice. The committee also noted a letter from the Ministry of Health's Chief Advisor – Child and Youth Health regarding use of newborn metabolic samples to determine the prevalence of HIV infection in pregnancy.

**Presentation**

Bruce Scoggins, Chief Executive of the Health Research Council (HRC), gave a presentation about the role and work of the HRC. There was discussion about opportunities for the work and findings of the NHC to feed into the work programme of the HRC.

**Farewell**

Committee members and secretariat staff farewelled Althea Page-Carruth and thanked her for all her contributions to the committee.

**Next meeting**

The next NHC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 April 2005 in Wellington. Members will be advised whether a teleconference will be held on Tuesday 15 March, at least one week in advance.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

**Confirmed as a true and accurate record**

.....Chair

.....Date