

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY  
(NATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE)**

**Minutes of the teleconference  
held at 11am on Tuesday, 15 March 2005**

**Present:** Andrew Moore  
Api Talemaitoga  
Gwen Tepania-Palmer  
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  
Diana Cookson, Analyst  
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)  
Trish Green, Communications Advisor

**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Apologies received from Neil Pearce and Kevin Hague.

**Agenda Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

**Agenda Item 3: Matters arising**

No items were raised.

**Agenda Item 4: Prostate cancer**

The draft letter responding to a delegation of urologists and other interested stakeholders who met with NHC representatives in November 2004 was approved.

**Agenda Item 5: Antenatal HIV**

Secretariat staff reported back on a meeting with the National Screening Unit (Ministry of Health) to discuss the Ministry's proposed advice to the Minister on screening for antenatal HIV. The differences between the NHC's recommendations and the Ministry's advice were discussed. It was suggested that once the Ministry has presented its advice to the Minister, a joint meeting with the Minister be arranged involving both the NHC and the National Screening Unit.

**Agenda Item 6: New Health Interventions**

The final draft of the advice to the Minister on decision-making about new health interventions was approved. The committee commented on the high quality of the document and thanked the secretariat for its work.

**Agenda Item 7: Visit to Tairawhiti (16 & 17 May)**

The secretariat reported that initial contact had been made with Tairawhiti DHB and that the suggested dates for the NHC to visit were convenient. Committee members identified a number of potential themes for the visit:

- Partnerships with community
- Maori health initiatives
- Rural health workforce (dealing with large distances, partnerships between general practitioners and nurses, retaining specialist staff in secondary care services)
- Disability support in a rural setting
- Development of health of older people initiatives
- Public health (local issues, working in a rural setting, interface between primary health care and public health). As with visits to other DHB regions it was proposed that the PHAC host a session focusing specifically on public health issues.

**Agenda Item 8: Primary Focus conference**

Committee members and secretariat staff reported on their impressions of the Primary Focus conference hosted the previous week by the Ministry of Health.

**Agenda Item 9. Workshop on CAM research**

The Chair advised that the NHC has received a request to provide funding towards a workshop for complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practitioners on developing research programmes. This workshop is being held as a direct result of the CAM symposium the NHC held in November 2004. The NHC agreed to provide up to \$3,000 towards the cost of the conference on the condition that the workshop include consideration of Maori research methods.

The teleconference finished at 12 noon.

**Confirmed as a true and accurate record**

.....Chair

.....Date