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

**Minutes of the 160th meeting
held on Tuesday, 16 August 2005
at the Ministry of Health, Wellington**

Present: Geoff Fougere
Riripeti Haretuku
Linda Holloway
Robert Logan (Chair)
Andrew Moore
Api Talemaitoga
Gwen Tepania-Palmer

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

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

Apologies received from Neil Pearce, Phil Shoemack and Lynette Stewart.

Agenda Item 2: Table all papers

Correspondence - see agenda item 5

Report to the Minister of Health on genetic testing - see agenda item 9.2

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the June meeting in Wellington

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Agenda Item 4: Matters arising

It was agreed that the NHC would sponsor the New Zealand Guidelines Group's consumer summit and a sponsorship package be negotiated.

Agenda Item 5: Correspondence

The committee noted the following inward correspondence:

- Response from the Minister of Health to NHC's letter on genetic testing
- Two letters from the AIDS Foundation about changes within its organisation (tabled)
- Letter from the Public Health Association of NZ thanking the committee for sponsorship of its annual conference (tabled)

- Letter from the Breast Cancer Foundation (tabled)

The committee noted the following outward correspondence

- Reply to Richard Crowe, Arthritis Action

Agenda Item 6: PHAC report back

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

- *Public Health Overview* – the PHAC has confirmed the general direction of this work. Meetings with key stakeholders will take place over the next couple of months.
- *Child health* – a successful meeting was held with child health experts, which will assist in scoping the project. An options paper is being developed to assist PHAC in determining the scope and direction of the project.

NHC members briefly discussed the possible age range for the project and some of the factors influencing lack of recent action in improving child health.

- *Health Impact Assessment* – a successful HIA training course was held in Auckland. There is a lot of interest in HIA among local authorities and public health units. The Minister was very enthusiastic when the chairs of PHAC and NHC met with her recently.

Agenda Item 7: Work programme

Agenda Item 7.1 Chronic Conditions

The project sponsors reported on the analysis of submissions on the NHC's chronic conditions discussion paper, and the project manager outlined progress with the case studies. There was discussion on engaging with key stakeholders who are influential in supporting people with chronic conditions, including health professionals and health workforce advisors. The secretariat agreed to prepare a list of these stakeholders for consideration at the next NHC meeting. The question of when to release the summary of submissions was also discussed. It was agreed that this should not occur at this stage of the project, but that the project team could provide verbal briefings to others developing work in the area, such as the Ministry of Health.

Louise Thornley presented on the findings from her recent study trip to learn more about the UK's approaches to supporting people with chronic conditions.

Agenda Item 7.2 Decision-making about New Health Interventions

The background paper outlining the findings from interviews with DHB staff on how decisions are made about adopting new health interventions was approved. Committee member's comments to be incorporated and the document to have a final edit before being sent to those interviewed and placed on the NHC website.

Agenda Item 8: Tairawhiti visit

The committee discussed the draft report to the Minister on its visit to Tairawhiti. Some minor changes were made to the wording. It was agreed that a copy of the final report be provided to the Doctors in Training round table.

Agenda Item 9: Work programme – brief updates

Agenda Item 9.1 Antenatal HIV Screening

The secretariat briefly updated the committee members on decisions that the Ministry of Health has made in regard to antenatal HIV screening. A national roll-out offering HIV tests to all pregnant women would begin in Auckland and the Waikato. The NHC agreed that it had completed its work in this area, and that it did not need to continue to have a watching brief.

Agenda Item 9.2 Genetic testing

The report to the Minister of Health recommending that copies of the NHC's 2002 report on molecular genetic testing be sent to DHBs was tabled and briefly discussed. The committee expressed concern that the Ministry of Health had not responded to the report's recommendations and about its decision to ask DHBs to take responsibility for their implementation.

An e-mail from the NZ Organisation for Rare Disorders proposing a framework for rare diseases was tabled. The secretariat to reply.

Agenda Item 9.3 Prostate Cancer Screening

The NHC agreed that it had completed its work in this area, and that it did not need to continue to have a watching brief.

Agenda Item 9.4 Smoking Cessation Guidelines

The committee accepted the final report of the survey of guideline users, which had been undertaken for the NHC by the New Zealand Guidelines Group. It was agreed that:

- the report be forwarded to the Public Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health to assist in the development of the revised guidelines
- a further recommendation be added to incorporate the need for a full literature review of publications since 2002
- the NHC had completed its work in this area.

Agenda Item 10: Future work areas

Agenda Item 10.1 Health in rural areas

Secretariat staff reported on key issues identified during a Ministry of Health visit to Wairarapa DHB. A verbal report was also received from those who had attended the Rural Doctors Forum and the Rural Health Summit. The issues for Maori, in particular Maori men, living in rural areas were highlighted. Committee members noted that work on health in rural areas needs to give consideration to the specific issues for Maori living in different rural regions. There was also discussion about the challenges associated with maintaining a rural health workforce.

It was agreed that the secretariat would prepare a brief scoping report for the October NHC meeting.

Agenda Item 10.2 Prioritisation

Andrew Moore, in his capacity of Chair of the National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC), outlined work NEAC is undertaking on ethical issues related to booking systems for elective surgery.

The NHC discussed the possibility of some joint work in the area once NEAC has completed its current advice. It was agreed that Andrew would keep the NHC updated on progress with this NEAC work item.

Agenda Item 10.3 Carers

It was agreed that there would be a general discussion on possible directions for the NHC’s proposed work on carers at the October meeting

Agenda Item 11: Conferences

The Manager is to e-mail information to committee members

Agenda Item 12: Financial update

The Manager gave a brief verbal update on the end of year financial position.

Agenda Item 13: Other business

People First and Standards Plus are interested in publishing the photos from the display “A window of my life” and the plain language summaries from the literature reviews that the Donald Beasley Institute prepared for the National Health Committee as part of the “To have an ‘ordinary’ life” project. The NHC supported this proposal.

Next meeting

The next face-to-face NHC meeting will be held in Wellington on Tuesday 18 October 2005, beginning at 9.30am. The Manager will advise committee members by Tuesday 11 September whether a teleconference will take place for the September NHC meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date