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

**Minutes of the 159th meeting
held on Tuesday, 21 June 2005
at the Westpac Trust Stadium, Wellington**

Present: Geoff Fougere
Kevin Hague
Riripeti Haretuku
Andrew Moore
Robert Logan (Chair)
Phil Shoemack
Lynette Stewart
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)
Fiona Rutherford, Analyst

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

Apologies received from Neil Pearce and Linda Holloway.

Agenda Item 2: Table all papers

Correspondence (see agenda item 6)

Media release on HIV antenatal screening (see agenda item 8.4)

Committee report to Minister on genetic testing (see agenda item 8.5)

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the May meeting in Tairāwhiti

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Agenda Item 4: Matters arising

None.

Agenda Item 5: Correspondence

The committee noted the following inward correspondence:

- National Ethics Committee on Assisted Human Reproduction's annual report
- Letter from Hon Pete Hodgson, Associate Minister of Health, advising that the Minister of Health had forwarded to him the NHC's letter on Caring for the Carers
- Letter from Ingrid Collins, Chair Tairāwhiti District Health Board, thanking the NHC for its visit to Tairāwhiti

- Letter from Vicki Wilde, on behalf of the organisers of the workshop on *Strategic Planning for CAM Research Programmes*, thanking the committee for its sponsorship and reporting on the achievements of the workshop
- Letter from Arthritis Action following up on previous correspondence with the committee.

The committee noted that individual cards had been sent to those who presented at and assisted with the organisation of the Tairawhiti visit.

Agenda Item 6: PHAC report back

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

- *Public Health Sector Overview project* – the PHAC has agreed to extend the timeframe of this work and report later in the year rather than at the end of June.
- *Health Impact Assessment (HIA)* – a report to the Minister has been prepared updating her on progress in the past year.
- *Determinants of Child Health* – planning is underway for a meeting of child health experts to assist the PHAC in scoping the project.

Agreed:

- An electronic version of the Public Health Sector Overview project be e-mailed to all NHC members to enable them to provide comments to the secretariat.

Agenda Item 7: Report on Tairawhiti visit

Committee members discussed the memo outlining key themes from the visit. It was agreed that this would form the basis of a committee report to the Minister. Key areas to be highlighted:

- Need to central decision-makers to be aware of the realities of providing health care in a remote rural area with a dispersed population
- That health workforce difficulties are a critical issue for rural and small communities
- Importance of creating and maintaining trust at all levels of the health sector and between the centre and health providers
- Difficulties of providing home support and ageing in place initiatives in rural areas.

Agenda Item 8 Work programme - brief updates

Agenda Item 8.1: Smoking Cessation Guidelines

Committee members noted the interim report on the survey of users of the Smoking Cessation Guidelines. Once the report is completed it will be sent to the Public Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health, who will review the current guidelines and take over responsibility for this work.

Agenda Item 8.2: Chronic conditions

The project sponsors reported that 97 submissions had been received and were being analysed. Proposals for the case studies had been received and contracts were being drawn up for case studies on children with chronic conditions, Pacific people with chronic conditions and people with chronic conditions and depression. A further request for proposals would be sent out for a case study on Maori with chronic conditions. Gwen Tepania-Palmer to draft a letter to accompany this.

It was agreed that due to the time needed for completion of the case studies, the timeframe for the project would be extended, with a reporting date of early 2006.

Agenda Item 8.3: Decision-making about New Health Interventions

Project sponsors reported on the launch of the committee's advice on Decision-making about New Health Interventions and on recent briefings with key stakeholders.

Agenda Item 8.4 Antenatal HIV Screening

A media release by the Ministry of Health regarding the decision to routinely offer antenatal HIV screening was circulated.

Agenda Item 8.5: Genetic testing

A committee report advising the Minister on the lack of action on the recommendations in the NHC's 2002 report on Molecular Genetic Testing was circulated. It was agreed that this was a critical and increasingly urgent area and that response was needed to the recommendations the committee had made.

Agenda Item 8.6: Prostate Cancer Screening

Project sponsors advised that an alternative booklet on prostate cancer screening was being circulated to general practitioners which contained different advice from the NHC's report and the NZGG brochures.

Agenda Item 9: Conferences

- *Health Services and Policy Research Conference, Canberra (November 2005)* – The draft abstracts on new health interventions and chronic conditions were discussed and it was agreed that they be submitted.
- *Request to sponsor the Consumers Summit being hosted by NZ Guidelines Group* – It was agreed that the NHC provide \$5,000 to sponsor this summit if the committee's requirements regarding Maori involvement and concrete outcomes are met. The Manager of the secretariat to contact NZGG to discuss the NHC's position.

Agenda Item 10: Financial update

The financial summary was unable to be provided due to technical problems. The Manager gave a brief verbal update.

Agenda Item 11: Work programme for 2005/06

- *Catalogue of committee projects* – committee members provided feedback on the draft document.
- *Rural health* – after discussion, it was agreed that the focus of this work be on the provision of health services in rural areas, rather than specifically on rural DHBs and small hospitals. Linda Holloway, Phil Shoemack and Gwen Tepania-Palmer agreed to be sponsors for this work.
- *Carers* – it was agreed that the scoping of this work include consideration of the issues for paid carers as well as family caregivers. It was confirmed that Lynette Stewart and Api Talemaitoga be sponsors for this work area.
- *Prioritisation* – Andrew Moore reported that the National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) is undertaking some background work on prioritisation. It

was suggested that this could be an area where the two committees could work together. Andrew offered to provide the NHC with a progress report on NEAC's work in this area at the next NHC meeting. It was also noted that many of the options raised in the paper provided to the committee earlier in the year, which outlined suggestions for project work on prioritisation, had been picked up in the NHC's recommendations on decision-making about new health interventions.

- *Decision-making about New Health Interventions* – the suggestion that the NHC monitor the implementation of its advice on this topic was discussed. It was agreed that the NHC would keep a watch on what happened, but not formally monitor the implementation.

Guest speaker

Geraldine Woods, Deputy Director-General for Disability Support in the Ministry of Health met with the committee and talked about the directorate's work and direction.

Next meeting

The next face-to-face NHC meeting will be held in Wellington on Tuesday 16 August, beginning at 9.30am. The Manager will advise committee members by Tuesday 12 July whether a teleconference of committee members will be held on Tuesday 19 July 2005.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date