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**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY**  
**Hunga Kaititiro i te Hauora o te Tangata**

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**Minutes of the 162nd meeting  
held on Tuesday, 29 November 2005  
at the Westpac Stadium, Wellington**

**Present:** Geoff Fougere  
Riripeti Haretuku  
Linda Holloway  
Robert Logan (Chair)  
Andrew Moore  
Neil Pearce (morning only)  
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  
Victoria Jackson, Analyst  
Barbara Langford, Senior Advisor (Public Health)  
Jan Mackay, Senior Analyst  
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)  
Louise Thornley, Senior Analyst

The Chair welcomed Victoria Jackson, new Policy Analyst, to the secretariat.

Congratulations were extended to Neil Pearce, recently elected as President, International Epidemiology Association and as Fellow of the Royal Society.

**Agenda Item 1: Apologies**

Phil Shoemack.

**Agenda Item 2: Table all papers**

Briefing papers for the incoming Minister for Disability Issues – it was noted that there were a number of references to the NHC's work.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the October 2005 meeting**

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Matters arising - Genetic Testing**

DHBNZ is establishing an expert group to consider the recommendations in the NHC's report on Molecular Genetic Testing. It was agreed to liaise with DHBNZ to highlight key issues.

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

The committee noted the following inward correspondence:

- Steering Committee for the NZ Society for Oncology Conference 2005 - letter of thanks for the presentation on decision-making about new health interventions
- New Zealand Guidelines Group - letter of thanks for the NHC's part-sponsorship of the National Consumers' Summit held in Auckland on 31 October 2005
- Older People's Health, Canterbury DHB - regarding the People with Chronic Conditions Discussion Document and their involvement in the consultation phase of the NHC project
- Carers NZ – correspondence regarding NHC's proposed work on carers
- Director-General of Health – response to letter seeking support for PHAC's work on Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

The committee noted the following outward correspondence:

- Reply to the Director-General of Health.

#### **Agenda Item 6: PHAC report back**

The Chair of the PHAC reported back on the discussion at the November PHAC meeting on:

- *Public health sector project* – more key informant interviews have been held. The report to the Minister will be developed further in preparation for the February PHAC meeting
- *Child health project* – an information collection model and the participation of children were discussed
- *Health Impact Assessment* – a communications strategy is to be developed.

PHAC referred to the NHC a request from Wellington School of Medicine to support a research proposal. It was agreed that this fell outside the role of the PHAC and NHC and that the researchers be advised of this.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Conferences**

- Diana Cookson and Angela Faherty reported on the outcomes of the National Consumers Summit – Strengthening Consumer Voices.
- Gwen Tepania – Palmer and Lynette Stewart reported on attendance the Indigenous Health Symposium held at Waitangi. This was highly successful, utilising 'field visits' which made strong connections between international speakers and New Zealand delegates.

- The Health Services Policy Research Conference held in Canberra was attended by both the secretariat Manager and committee member Geoff Fougere. Some good contacts were made in the areas of new health interventions and chronic conditions.
- Linda Holloway reported on the Health Research Council Conference.
- It was agreed that abstracts on PHAC work would be submitted for the NZ Public Health Association Conference in July 2006.

## **Agenda Item 8: Work programme**

### **Agenda Item 8.1 Chronic Conditions**

An update was given on the case studies. The project manager gave a brief summary of the findings from the case study on Pacific people with chronic conditions. It was agreed that committee would receive copies of the reports from each of the case studies once they were all available in the new year.

Members discussed the draft initial report to the Minister and provided feedback. It was agreed to the following changes:

- not refer to an “either/ or” situation in relation to reorientation within the health sector towards better management of chronic conditions, but rather the need for a seamless system and for change to occur
- clarify whether change is sought across the health sector, or whether chronic care specifically should be improved
- more evidence (e.g. around future costs)
- more detail of personal experiences of people with chronic conditions (including those highlighted in case studies)
- the discussion of acute and chronic care models to be rewritten
- refer to “support” of people with chronic conditions and “management” of conditions (not management of people).

### **Agenda Item 8.2 Carers**

The project manager gave a presentation on a preliminary background paper for the carers project. It was agreed that the caring relationship should be the focus of the project and what differentiates the NHC’s project from other work in this area.

Suggestions for the project included:

- developing pro-active work identifying a vision for the future
- abolish the myths of what being a carer means
- look at specific cultural needs, with specific focus on tangata whenua and Pacific approaches to carering. This may involve specific pieces of work.

**Agenda Item 9: Work programme – verbal updates**

**Agenda Item 9.1: Rural communities and health**

Project sponsors updated the committee on the work done by the secretariat so far. An initial round of meetings is planned for over the summer.

**Agenda Item 9.2: Decision-making about new health interventions**

The committee was advised of two pertinent publications. The Ministry of Health and DHBs are about to release a health service framework (SPNIA) which draws on and refers to the NHC’s work on decision-making about new health interventions. In addition the OECD has released a report on new health technologies which reaches similar conclusions as the NHC’s report to the Minister.

It was agreed that:

- the OECD would be sent a copy of the NHC’s report
- members of the Committee would critique the SPNIA framework and provide the secretariat with the comments.

**Agenda Item 9.3: Prioritisation**

Andrew Moore reported that the National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) was still developing its report on prioritisation. He will update the NHC on further developments at its February meeting.

**Agenda Item 10: Financial update**

The Manager gave a brief update on the financial position.

**Next meeting**

The next face-to-face NHC meeting will be held in Wellington on Tuesday, 21 February beginning at 9.30am.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

**Confirmed as a true and accurate record**

.....Chair

.....Date