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

**Minutes of the 161st meeting
held on Tuesday, 18 October 2005
at the Ministry of Health, 133 Molesworth Street, Wellington**

Present: Geoff Fougere
Riripeti Haretuku
Linda Holloway
Robert Logan (Chair)
Andrew Moore
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)
Jan Mackay, Senior Analyst
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)
Louise Thornley, Senior Analyst

Agenda Item 1: Apologies

Apologies received from Neil Pearce and Phil Shoemack.

Agenda Item 2: Table all papers

Correspondence - see agenda item 5

List of recent and forthcoming conferences – see agenda item 9

Summary of expenditure to 30 September 2005 – see agenda item 10

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the August meeting

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:

- Letter from Michelle Lexmond, Strategy Feedback Group, providing a current response from Tairāwhiti community groups to the NHC's 1998 discussion document *How Should We Care for the Carers?*.

- Letter from Peter Cartwright, Donald Beasley Institute, asking about progress in implementing the recommendations of the NHC's 2003 report *To have an 'ordinary life'*.

The committee noted the following outward correspondence:

- Reply to Peter Cartwright, Donald Beasley Institute

Agenda Item 6: PHAC report back

The Chair of the PHAC reported back on discussion at the September and October PHAC meetings current projects:

- *Public Health Sector Project* – Meetings have been held with some key stakeholders and others are planned to discuss the project findings. PHAC discussed the themes arising from these meetings and the direction of its advice to the Minister.
- *Child health* – At its September meeting PHAC agreed that the project would cover the 0 – 24 age group, take a lifecourse approach, focus on critical periods and identify specific points of leverage to improve child health. The October meeting agreed to proposed stages for the development of the project.

A project sponsor commented that recent meetings with stakeholders had identified that: the Ministry of Health takes responsibility for the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-5; from age 5 this becomes the responsibility of the Ministry of Education; and at about age 12 the Ministry of Social Development may become involved. A constant theme raised by informants has been the large amount of information (research, reports and strategies) but the lack of corresponding improvement in child health. It had also been suggested that resilience might be a fruitful area on which to focus in line with the work of the Ministry of Youth Affairs.

- *Health Impact Assessment* – Local government agencies continue to be enthusiastic about HIA. Getting central government HIAs underway has been more difficult. The focus of the project is now on how HIA will be sustainable once the PHAC's project is completed. Options for central government agency support were discussed.

Agenda Item 7: Work programme

Agenda Item 7.1 Chronic Conditions

The project sponsors reported that it was proposed to prepare two reports to the Minister. The first one would be a high level report and would be completed early next year. The second, more detailed, report would be provided to the Minister in the middle of 2006.

Members discussed the draft notes for the first report and provided feedback. It was agreed that the first report:

- would clearly put the case for reorienting the health sector to focus more effectively on improving the health and wellbeing of people living with chronic conditions

- identify the principles of effective management and prevention of chronic conditions to achieve this change
- discuss specific issues for Maori and for Pacific peoples separately
- focus on improving health care for the whole population, and for groups who are disproportionately affected by chronic conditions, and who have less access to health care
- contain high level recommendations to government, including sectors outside the health sector.

The second report will contain more detail from the NHC's consultation with people with chronic conditions and health practitioners, including findings from the four case studies. It will include a set of specific recommendations to improve services.

Agenda Item 7.2 Rural communities and health

Project sponsors outlined the initial scoping on the project and mentioned the work other agencies are undertaking in this area. It was noted that health services are important for economic development and stability of rural centres.

It was agreed that:

- the project would take a broad look at health of rural communities, including intersectoral approaches
- a narrative approach would be used, where the NHC would seek accounts from rural people about how they see their health, examples of innovation, and challenges in delivery of health services in rural areas.
- Geoff Fougere would be an additional project sponsor.

Suggestions for key informants and possible locations to visit were discussed.

Agenda Item 7.3 Carers

The project manager reported on the early scoping for a potential project on carers. Currently a number of government agencies are undertaking policy work on aspects of caregiving. The secretariat has begun a stocktake of this work to identify possible areas where the NHC could add value at a strategic level.

A secretariat member reported on key themes that had arisen during the Homehealth Association's recent conference. These included a focus on restorative approaches and improving training for carers.

Committee members discussed the possible scope of the project. Suggestions included:

- focus on both paid and unpaid carers
- undertake cost-benefit analysis of funding models
- identify approaches to improve co-ordination and linkages
- look at variations in policy and practice between regions
- include consideration of issues for children requiring support and their families
- review how sector has developed (ie in ad hoc way) and how it can move forward

- include the perspectives of disabled people which can sometimes differ from those of carers

It was agreed that the stocktake was an essential starting point for the project.

Agenda Item 7.4: Briefing to incoming Minister of Health

Committee members discussed the draft report to the incoming Minister of Health and made some minor changes. **It was agreed** that the amended report be sent to the new Minister.

Agenda Item 8.1: Genetic Testing

Still no decisions but maintaining pressure for progress.

Agenda Item 8.2: Prioritisation

Andrew Moore reported that the National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) was continuing its work on ethical issues related to booking systems for elective surgery. NEAC is interested in the NHC's comments and will continue to update the NHC on progress with this work.

Agenda Item 8.3: To have an 'ordinary' life

The secretariat has met with the Office for Disability Issues and a meeting between the NHC Chair and the DDG for Disability Support Services in the Ministry of Health is being organised.

Agenda Item 9: Conferences

- The New Zealand Guidelines Group is holding a National Consumers Summit in Auckland on October 31 2005. It was agreed that two members of the secretariat would attend and report back at the next NHC meeting.
- The NHC will be setting up a display at the State Services Senior Leaders Development Conference which will focus on 'To Have an Ordinary Life' including the storyboards.

Robert Logan reported on a Social Marketing Conference (organised by ACC) and the recent Screening Symposium (organised by the National Screening Unit), which he had attended.

Agenda Item 10: Financial update

The Manager gave a brief update on the financial position at the end of September 2005.

Presentation

Dr Peter Jansen, from Mauri Ora Associates, presented on a research project on Maori use and experience of health, disability and ACC services.

Next meeting

The next face-to-face NHC meeting will be held in Wellington on Tuesday 29 November, beginning at 9.30am. This will be the last Committee meeting for the year.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date