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

**Minutes of the 163rd meeting
held on Tuesday, 21 February 2006
in Rooms GO5 & GO6, 133 Molesworth Street, Wellington**

Present: Geoff Fougere
Linda Holloway (Acting Chair)
Andrew Moore
Neil Pearce
Phil Shoemack
Api Talemaitoga
Gwen Tepania-Palmer

In Attendance: Margaret Earle, Manager
Sara Georgeson, Analyst
Trish Green, Communications Advisor
Kathryn Haliburton (for chronic conditions discussion)
Victoria Jackson, Analyst
Barbara Langford, Senior Advisor (Public Health)
Jan Mackay, Senior Analyst
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)
Louise Thornley, Senior Analyst

Agenda Item 1: Conflicts of interest

None

Agenda Item 2: Apologies

Lynette Stewart, Riripeti Haretuku

Agenda Item 3: Table all papers

The following papers were tabled:

- Financial summary for January 2006
- News release on prostate screening by women general practitioners

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of November 2005 meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 5: Correspondence

The committee noted the following outward correspondence:

- reply to Peter Cartwright, Donald Beasley Institute, regarding progress with implementing recommendations in the NHC's *To have an 'ordinary' life* report.

Agenda Item 6: Report back on meeting with Minister

Geoff Fougere, Linda Holloway and Margaret Earle reported on the first meeting between NHC representatives and the new Minister of Health, held on 1 February 2006. The Minister had read a number of NHC and PHAC reports and identified three roles for the committees:

- an initiating role – putting new issues on the health agenda
- reinforcing and highlighting critical areas (eg wider determinants of health)
- using its independence to look at issues where there is a complexity of stakeholder views.

The meeting was an opportunity for committee representatives to brief the Minister on the current work areas of the committees. The Minister was positive about each of these. A discussion was also held on possible new areas of work.

The Minister has agreed to meet the whole committee at the beginning of the May NHC meeting. This will be followed by regular quarterly meetings with the Chair.

Agenda Item 7: “Out of town” meeting for 2006

As the Minister will be meeting with the NHC in May, this year's “out of town” meeting is to be planned for June. It was agreed to approach Wairarapa DHB in the first instance, and if this is not convenient, to consider Wanganui DHB.

Agenda Item 8: Conferences

- State Services Senior Leaders' Development Conference - Angela Faherty reported on the displays which were set up in the Auckland and Wellington conference venues to highlight *To have an 'ordinary' life*.
- Neil Pearce spoke briefly about the symposium on environmental health that the Centre for Public Health Research is holding in November 2006. PHAC's involvement to be discussed further.

Agenda Item 9: Report back on February PHAC meeting

The Chair of PHAC outlined the issues discussed at the PHAC meeting the previous evening:

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – a communications strategy was discussed and approved. The key issue for further discussion is what happens to HIA after PHAC's report to the Minister in June 2006.
- Children and Youth health – work progressing
- Public health overview – the report to the Minister is close to completion.

Agenda Item 10: Work Programme

Agenda Item 10.1: Chronic conditions

The project manager outlined changes made to the draft of the first report to the Minister. It was agreed that:

- the focus of the first report to the Minister is on 'the why' and will include high level strategic recommendations
- the audience for the first report is key decision-makers in the health sector but the report needs to have sufficient detail to engage and prompt readers
- the second report will focus on 'the how' and its recommendations will be more pragmatic and detailed.

Discussion on the draft of the first report covered:

- how to present the Treaty of Waitangi in the document - it was agreed to use the wording in *To have an 'ordinary' life* and to move it to the beginning of the document or the principles section
- including reference to the future growth of Asian populations
- reducing or condensing the fact boxes
- the need for more emphasis on role of primary health care and improving access
- strengthening the economic arguments for a greater focus on chronic conditions
- providing more detail on some of the successful models mentioned
- getting the balance right between recognising the initiatives that have been established and emphasising the need for changes to occur
- agreement that the principles should be based on those developed by the World Health Organisation
- making the recommendations more concrete and focused on the person-centre approach
- discussion on how 'prevention' is covered in the document.

Actions:

- the secretariat to make changes to the report based on the committee discussion and e-mail these to sponsors for discussion at a sponsors' teleconference. The amended report to be tabled at the March NHC meeting for final sign-off.

Committee members acknowledged the significant contribution that Louise Thornley has made to this project.

The Manager briefed the committee on the International Learning Set on Chronic Conditions. The NHC has been asked to present to the Learning Set on the afternoon of Monday 20 March and will be invited to a social function in the evening.

Actions:

- The secretariat will prepare a presentation in consultation with the project sponsors.

Agenda Item 10.2: PHAC's public health overview report

A brief discussion was held on PHAC's report to the Minister on its public health overview project. It is expected that the report will be finalised at the March PHAC meeting and forwarded to NHC for approval.

Actions:

- any comments on the draft report to be e-mailed to the project sponsor and/or secretariat.
- the secretariat to e-mail Lynette Stewart and Riripeti Haretuku for their views on how to strengthen Māori perspectives in the report.

Agenda Item 10.3: Carers

The committee discussed the proposed project concept and considered the questions posed about it.

It was agreed that:

- the focus of the project is on informal carers within the context of the caregiving relationship
- the purpose of the project is to identify how to improve the quality of life of carers (which for some carers may include relinquishing part or all of the caring role)
- the research questions for the project are appropriate but some need further development in light of the committee discussion
- further consideration is needed before determining if the project will focus on sub-populations and, if so, what these would be.
- it is too premature to determine whether the project would include qualitative research.
- the project should include analysis of relevant policies and services
- an important outcome of the project will be making the caregiving role visible and highlighting the variety of work already done in this area
- the project sponsors are Lynette Stewart, Api Talemaitoga and Gwen Tepania-Palmer.

Actions:

- The secretariat to send out an e-mail to committee members canvassing opinion on the range of sub-populations that could be considered. This may need to wait until initial stakeholder meetings are held.

Agenda Item 11: Work programme – verbal updates

Agenda Item 11.1: Rural communities and health

The project team and sponsors reported on key themes raised in the first meetings with stakeholders. It was suggested, given the constraints on the secretariat capacity over the next few months, the secretariat commission some work to assist the development of this project.

Agenda Item 11.2: Genetic testing

It was reported that DHBNZ is setting up a working party to consider the recommendations in the NHC report, *Molecular Genetic Testing in New Zealand*. The terms of reference for the working party are under development.

Agenda Item 11.3: Prioritisation

Andrew Moore briefed the committee on the current work of NEAC including its initial meeting with the Minister of Health. NEAC is continuing its work on prioritisation of elective services and will keep the NHC informed about this.

Agenda Item 11.4: To have an 'ordinary' life

The Manager reported that there is a project underway to develop the photo boards and plain language summaries (from the literature reviews) into a book. The secretariat had been approached about the possibility of the NHC contributing a small amount of funding to cover design costs. The committee agreed it was willing to consider a formal request for this.

It was agreed to invite Anne Bray, from the Donald Beasley Institute to the March NHC meeting to talk to the committee about the Institute's recent work.

Agenda Item 11.5: Prostate cancer screening

It was noted that the pamphlets on prostate screening for men and for general practitioners are being redeveloped.

Agenda Item 12: Financial update

The Manager spoke to the financial statement for January 2006.

Presentation

Phil Shoemack gave a presentation on his recent experiences of working in the public health sector in Canada.

Acknowledgements

The committee formally recognised and acknowledged the work of Robert Logan as committee member and for the past 6 years as Chair. Mention was made of the superb way he had directed and led the committee and his enormous contribution to the work of the NHC.

The contribution that Louise Thornley has made to the work of the committee through her work in the secretariat was also acknowledged. Committee members expressed their appreciation for her contribution, clear analysis and patience.

Next meetings

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

It was agreed that the April NHC and PHAC meetings would be held as teleconferences on Wednesday 19 April.

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date