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

Minutes of the 170th meeting
held on Tuesday, 21 November 2006
at Ministry of Health building, The Terrace Wellington

Present: Linda Holloway (Chair)
Karleen Edwards
Geoff Fougere
Riripeti Haretuku
Andrew Moore
Lynette Stewart (for most of the meeting)
Phil Shoemack
Api Talemaitoga
Will Taylor
Gwen Tepania-Palmer
Maaka Tibble

In attendance (for all or part of meeting):
Margaret Earle, Manager
Angela Faherty, Executive Assistant
Kathryn Haliburton, Analyst
Liz Hirst, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)
Victoria Jackson, Analyst
Barbara Langford, Senior Analyst (Public Health)
Jan Mackay, Senior Analyst
Liz Price, Communications Advisor (for item 6.6)
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)
Liza Wilcox, Senior Analyst

Agenda Item 1: Identify conflicts of interest

None identified.

Agenda Item 2: Apologies

Neil Pearce.

Agenda Item 3: Table all papers

- Copies of completed rural health literature review (see item 6.2)
- List of contents from informal caregivers literature review (see item 6.4)
- Correspondence from Robin Smart (see item 6.5)

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of October NHC meeting

The minutes of the NHC meeting held on 17 October 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record. The listed actions were reviewed. There were no matters arising that were not already covered by the agenda.

Agenda Item 5: PHAC update

The Chair of PHAC reported on the items discussed at the meeting the previous day:

- the PHAC meeting began with a round robin of what's happening in public health. This was successful and the PHAC will continue with this process
- the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) document is near completion and will be discussed by the NHC at this meeting (item 5.1)
- the Child Health and Wellbeing project is at present focusing on frameworks for monitoring of child health status
- the PHAC discussed the scope of its new project on urban environment and health and agreed to focus on urban settings and social arrangements within these.

Agenda Item 6: Work programme

These items are in the order they appeared on the agenda, rather than the order in which they were discussed.

Agenda Item 6:1: PHAC's final publication on Health Impact Assessment

The lead project sponsor reported PHAC's discussion the previous evening about its draft publication *An Idea Whose Time Has Come*. She highlighted the changes in format proposed. NHC members asked some questions of clarification and endorsed the content and changes to the format.

Agreed:

- The NHC approved in principle the content of the PHAC's publication *An Idea Whose Time Has Come*.

Action:

- Final draft of publication to be sent by e-mail to all committee members.

Agenda Item 6:2: Rural communities and health

The lead project sponsor spoke to the committee meeting report and asked for feedback on the draft project profile.

Copies of the completed literature review were made available to committee members. A meeting has been held with Public Health Intelligence in response to the literature review identifying a lack of rural health data. Consideration is being given to contracting for some further data analysis.

In discussing the project scope and definitions, the following approaches were supported:

- acknowledging the importance of workforce sustainability, without focusing specifically on, or avoiding, it
- to use a broad and open definition of health and disability services as many providers supply services beyond 'health'. Their services often have multiple funding sources and are likely to contribute to rural innovations and affect health outcomes. Services covered could include community development initiatives as well as health services.
- to use, for now, the following definition of rural – "population < 200/ sq. km. or settlements < 1000".

Agreed:

- the focus of the project will be on successful innovations, with sustainability as one feature of interest.
- to the selection of Tairāwhiti, Waikato, West Coast and Northland DHBs for more in-depth consultation in regards to rural health issues and innovations
- to use of the quality improvement framework as a starting point for framing the project questions.

Actions:

- secretariat and sponsors to reword the project 'goal' and rework the objectives. Revised goal to be discussed at 5 December NHC meeting
- sponsors to decide on the definition for health and disability services
- provide the Minister with copy of the literature review and ask about placing it on the NHC website.
- ask the Minister about the possibility of meeting with Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Rural Affairs and Associate Minister of Health.

Agenda Item 6:3: Hui with Māori health leaders

The Chair provided a summary of discussions to date on the proposal to hold a hui with Māori health leaders. Committee members responded with ideas about the purpose, focus and contents of a hui.

Actions

- mention hui concept to Minister
- discuss hui arrangements and programme further at NHC meeting on 5 December.

Agenda Item 6:4: Caregivers

The project manager reported that the literature review is nearly complete and provided committee members with a copy of its table of contents. Work has begun on the Māori review and analysis.

Agenda Item 6:5: Prostate cancer screening

The Chair reported on her meeting with the Ministry of Health and a conversation with the New Zealand Guidelines Group. A letter sent to her by Robin Smart was discussed.

Action:

- reply to letter from Robin Smart.

Agenda Item 6:6: Chronic conditions

The Chair reported on the Minister's comments about the NHC's report and that he had asked for clarification on the idea of a DHB nominated contact person. Members discussed the concepts behind this recommendation and how to make these clearer in the report.

The Manager reported on progress toward printing of the report and arranging its launch. She noted that the Minister would not be available to attend a launch until the New Year.

Agreed:

- Propose to the Minister that the launch be held next year and that in the meantime it be released to Ministry of Health to enable a response to be developed.

Actions:

- Begin discussions about developing a joint workshop with key players in the health sector to look at implementation of proposals in the NHC advice
- Discuss the concept of DHB nominated contact person further at the NHC meeting on 5 December.

Agenda Item 7: The committees' purpose, role and ways of working

The committee discussed the report prepared by the Manager reviewing the roles of the NHC and PHAC and the current ways in which the committees organise their work.

Actions:

- Include in NHC meetings a round robin about what's happening that is relevant to the work of the committee
- Consider releasing background papers (like literature reviews) when they are completed rather than at the end of a project.

Agenda Item 8: Items for the meeting with the Minister

The following items were identified for discussion with the Minister later in the day:

- Chronic conditions report and launch
- Rural health literature review and possibility of meeting with Hon Damien O'Connor
- Māori health leaders hui
- PHAC's final Health Impact Assessment publication

- The focus of PHAC’s new project on urban environment and health.

Agenda Item 9: Correspondence

Deferred to NHC meeting on 5 December.

Agenda Item 10: Financial update

Deferred to NHC meeting on 5 December.

Agenda Item 11: Conferences

Deferred to NHC meeting on 5 December.

Next meeting

The final NHC meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 5 December, beginning at 12 noon.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date