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

Minutes of the 169th meeting
held on Tuesday, 17 October 2006
at Ministry of Health building, The Terrace Wellington

Present: Linda Holloway (Chair)
Karleen Edwards
Geoff Fougere
Andrew Moore
Neil Pearce (afternoon)
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
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst (Māori Health)
Liza Wilcox, Senior Analyst

Maaka Tibble welcomed Liz Hirst to the secretariat on behalf of the NHC.

Agenda Item 1: Identify conflicts of interest

None identified.

Agenda Item 2: Apologies

Riripeti Haretuku, Neil Pearce (morning).

Agenda Item 3: Table all papers

- Amended agenda
- Draft definitions for chronic conditions report (see item 5.1)
- Copies of the draft chronic conditions report (see item 5.1)
- Additional information for rural health and communities project (see item 5.3)

Agenda Item 4: Minutes of August NHC meeting

The minutes of the NHC meeting held on 22 August 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: Work programme

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

Agenda Item 5:1 Chronic conditions

Project sponsors reported on the outcomes of the meeting they had held during the lunch time to resolve outstanding issues relating to the report to the Minister. Minor editorial changes were being made to the report to ensure consistency. Members received a copy of the latest draft of the report to enable them to provide final comments.

The section on health information was discussed and alternative wording around the issue of the release and privacy of personal health information was suggested. Definitions for cultural competence, cultural safety, culturally appropriate services and health inequalities were discussed and confirmed.

It was suggested that the launch of the report be held in late November or early December, depending on the Minister's availability. A Parliamentary launch was suggested.

Action:

- Committee members to provide the secretariat with any comments on the final draft of the chronic conditions report by Tuesday 24 October.

Agenda Item 5:2 Hui with Maori health leaders

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have some idea of forthcoming Māori health events so that a suitable date for the hui could be found.

Actions

- secretariat to check with Te Kete Hauora, in the Ministry of Health, about dates of forthcoming Māori health events
- sponsors to contact secretariat Manager with suggestions of possible dates.

Agenda Item 5:3 Rural communities and health

The lead project sponsor reported that the literature review had been completed and final changes were being made. The review found that there are significant gaps in New Zealand literature on rural health which is mostly focused around a few specific areas and that there is a lack of useful New Zealand data on rural

health. Committee members commented that the access framework used in the literature review was a useful conceptual tool.

The options for focusing the NHC project, outlined in the report to the committee and an additional paper tabled at the meeting, were discussed. Committee members expressed preference for focusing on two DHBs with rural populations that have low health status, and two comparison DHBs with large rural populations, within which there is high contrast in health status or deprivation scores. Options for DHBs were considered with reference to the demographic and other data collated by the secretariat. Api Talemaitoga noted that if Waikato DHB was included this would enable the project to consider rural Pacific communities (eg Tokoroa). The idea of using a matrix of DHBs and specific services was suggested.

Action:

- Sponsors' teleconference to refine project focus to be held on Thursday 26 October.

Agenda Item 5:4 Caregivers

The committee discussed the project profile and progress report prepared by the secretariat. It was noted that work is progressing on the literature review.

Agenda Item 5:5 Prostate cancer screening

The Chair reported that the Ministry of Health had contracted the New Zealand Guidelines Group to update the pamphlet providing men with advice on prostate cancer. The draft leaflet contained references to the NHC's 2004 advice. The wording about the NHC advice was discussed and an alternative suggested. It was agreed that it is not appropriate to include the NHC logo in the new pamphlet, as the committee's role is advice to the Minister rather than the development of consumer information. The Chair tabled information on recent prostate cancer research provided to her by Robin Smart.

Action:

- Chair and Manager to meet with the Ministry of Health to discuss wording of consumer pamphlet.

Agenda Item 6: PHAC update

The Chair of PHAC reported on recent events and the items discussed at the PHAC meeting in September:

- the Prime Minister announced funding for a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) support team as part of the recent obesity package
- the Chair of PHAC presented the findings from *Health is Everyone's Business* to a recent Ministry of Health seminar
- a paper on child health and wellbeing is being prepared for the November PHAC meeting
- scoping has started on PHAC's urban environment and health project.

Agenda Item 7: Correspondence

The committee noted the following inwards correspondence:

- The National Ethics Advisory Committee’s Fourth Annual Report to the Minister of Health.

Agenda Item 8: Financial update

The secretariat manager spoke to the financial summary for the period ending 30 September 2006.

Agenda Item 9: Conferences

Lynette Stewart and Phil Shoemack reported on the Australian Public Health Association Conference – *Tackling the Determinants of Health from the bush to Bondi*. Many of the sessions were relevant to PHAC’s recent work and its new project on urban environment and health. Phil offered to provide a copy of his notes.

The list of forthcoming conferences was reviewed.

Presentations

Tessa Thompson, Sara Georgeson and Justin Stang updated the Committee on current work being undertaken by the Office for Disability Issues.

Carolyn Risk from the Ministry of Social Development briefed the NHC on the policy work being undertaken as part of the Government’s theme of Families Young and Old.

Next meetings

The next NHC meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 November.

A further NHC meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 December, beginning at 12 noon

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

.....Chair

.....Date