

Public Health Advisory Committee
Te Rōpū Tohutohu i te Hauora Tūmatanui

(Sub-Committee of the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability)

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 August, 2005 in Wellington

Present: Geoff Fougere (Chair)
Robert Logan
Riripeti Haretuku
Neil Pearce

In attendance: Margaret Earle, Manager
Barbara Langford, Senior Advisor, Public Health
Louise Thornley, Senior Analyst (until 3.30pm)
Charmaine Ross, Senior Analyst, Māori Health
Sara Georgeson, Analyst
Diana Cookson, Analyst

Apologies Lynette Stewart, Phil Shoemack, Andrew Moore

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes – confirmed as read.

Matters arising

Nil

Correspondence

Letter from HRC regarding men's health
Health Information Strategy for New Zealand, 2005.

Tabled papers

Revised HIA Guide
Committee Report to the Minister on the public health project
Final Bangkok Charter
New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights.

Agenda Item 6.1: Public Health Overview

The project manager summarised the project to date. The Manager highlighted the similarities with the New Health Interventions work.

Discussion included the following:

- A preamble to the recommendations is needed that introduces the need for brokerage of intersectoral collaborative approaches and that the core public health sector is best placed to do this
- Some discussion of the nature of leadership may be needed in the report
- If the focus of public health is on the macro-level then the wider determinants will be addressed intersectorally
- Challenges for building public health in a devolved health system.

Agenda item 6.2 Health Impact Assessment

The Chair reported on the meeting with the Deputy Director General Public Health. It will be difficult to engage the Public Health Directorate on HIA in the current environment of a focus on health services.

The Manager reported that the Minister is very enthusiastic about HIA especially for its potential for escalating interagency connections.

Agenda item 6.3 Children’s Health

The project sponsor and project team reported on the experts’ meeting held on 12 August to assist in scoping the project.

Summary of the PHAC discussion:

- Need more information from Māori and Pacific groups and on youth issues
- Begin with key informant issues and workshop later
- Need to collect evidence - what new evidence do we need to draw together.

Action point:

- The options paper to be strengthened by what came out of the experts’ meeting.
- Continue with key informant interviews – Maori, Pacific and youth health.

Agenda item 7 Other business

Occupational health. The committee was updated on the state of occupational health in New Zealand. It appears to have been marginalised in the restructuring of the Department of Labour. The September meeting of NOSAC will formally inform PHAC of its findings to date and request PHAC input.

Public Health Bill. A draft outline of the Bill will be drafted by the Parliamentary Counsel for discussion.

8 Next meeting

A face-to-face meeting or teleconference will be held on 19 September 2005.

Confirmed as a correct record:

..... (Chair) Date.....