

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 17 July 2006 1pm – 3pm

Present: Geoff Fougere (Chair)
Linda Holloway
Phil Shoemack
Lynette Stewart
Neil Pearce (for part of the meeting)

In attendance: Margaret Earle, Manager, NHC
Barbara Langford, Senior Advisor, Public Health
Jan Mackay
Charmaine Ross

Apologies Andrew Moore
Neil Pearce
Riripeti Haretuku

Tabled Papers

Nil

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes – confirmed

Matters arising

Correspondence

Email from PHARMAC asking to meet re “Health is everyone’s business”. Agreed to invite Peter Moodie to an NHC meeting

Agenda Item 6.1: Health Impact Assessment

Discussion centred around the draft report to the Minister. Some general suggestions were made for revision to the report.

Key points from the discussion included:

- failure of uptake at the central government level was in large part due to the lack of national level championship. The report needs to reflect this.
- HIA is one tool to predict effects of policies on the population but agency ethos that recognises the importance of identifying health impacts is the underlying requirement
- Sector Policy analyst to find out with which agencies the Ministry of Health has a Memorandum of Understanding.

Action:

- the project manager to make changes to the report before her annual leave, the Manager taking over after her departure. Final sign-off will be via email.

Feedback from the HIA conference:

The conference was well attended with a wide range of agency participation. Agencies were mainly represented by senior people and there was valuable interaction. The Minister of Health challenged the conference to consider the best ways to ensure that the current momentum for HIA can be maintained and increased into the future. He asked the group to report back to him with their views. A letter has since been sent to the Minister with recommendations for the sustainability of HIA.

Agenda Item 6.1: Public Health Sector Project

The launch of “Health is everyone’s business” will take place on Tues 18 July. Attendance will be low. Distribution of the report will need to include CEOs and policy managers of key government agencies and local authorities.

Agenda item 6.3: The Health of Children and Young People

It was agreed that, with the amount of work occurring across the sectors in relation to children and young people, sponsors and other interested PHAC members need to revisit the project direction.

Action:

- the project manager to prepare background summary papers for sponsors’ meeting.

Agenda item 7: Other Matters

Agenda item 7.1 The Urbanisation, Environment and Health Conference.

Deferred until Sept.

Agenda item 7.3: PHA Conference

Feedback from this conference was very positive. Discussion focused on an issue raised at the conference about the status of the Treaty of Waitangi. It is an issue that the NHC and PHAC need to discuss.

Next meeting: Monday 17 September in Wellington

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

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