

**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 20 Nov 2006 2pm – 6pm**

**Present:** Geoff Fougere (Chair)  
Andrew Moore  
Riripeti Haretuku  
Phil Shoemack  
Lynette Stewart  
Linda Holloway

**In attendance:** Margaret Earle, Manager, NHC  
Barbara Langford, Senior Policy Analyst, Public Health  
Jan Mackay, Senior Policy Analyst  
Charmaine Ross, Senior Policy Analyst, Māori Health  
Liz Hirst, Senior Policy Analyst, Māori Health  
Kathryn Haliburton, Analyst

**Apologies** Linda Holloway (lateness)  
Lynette Stewart (lateness)  
Neil Pearce

**Tabled Papers**

Notes of Auckland meetings on urban environment

Guiding Principles for reducing Commercial Promotion of Foods and Beverages to Children ('Sydney Principles') – International Obesity TaskForce

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes – confirmed as read.

**Matters arising**

Linda Holloway has agreed to take Robert Logan's place on the External Reference Group for the Public Health Bill.

**Correspondence**

Letter to Dr Brian Booth in answer to his letter about the effect of urban sprawl and increased traffic on health. One revision of the draft reply was made.

**Current Public Health issues**

Members and secretariat were invited to raise public health issues of interest. There was a common theme of media distortion of public health and consequent loss of public trust. Recent examples of this included TV documentaries on the MenzB vaccination programme and on the dioxin issue centred on the Ivon Watkins-Dow plant in New Plymouth. How evidence is presented, expertise called on, place of the media and issues of public trust could be the basis of a PHAC think piece and or a Listener article.

Other issues raised included:

- Community concern about the status of the Treaty of Waitangi
- Health Innovation Awards – **agreed** to present HIA for an award
- Bid around a Centre for Excellence for urban health and development.

The following work programme items are listed in order of the agenda rather than the order they were discussed.

### **Agenda Item 6.1: Health Impact Assessment**

The meeting “signed off” the HIA report subject to the following revisions:

- Chapter 5 to be revised under a heading “What are health impacts?” and written in a more positive way
- Title to be “An idea whose time has come; new opportunities for Health Impact Assessment in New Zealand public policy”
- Communications advisor to be consulted for style to reach non-health audience.

#### **Agreed:**

- Launch will be early next year preferably at a non-health event. Members and secretariat to be alert to possibilities.
- A flier to be developed as a summary document.

### **Agenda item 6.2: The Health of Children and Young People**

The secretariat had prepared a summary of health status information collected to date, based on the *Children and Young People: Indicators of Wellbeing in New Zealand* developed by MSD. The paper noted that the Ministry of Health is currently undertaking an Indicators project that includes socioeconomic determinants of health and lifecourse. Discussion focused on monitoring arrangements for child health and wellbeing information.

**Agreed:** that the heart of the project is to create an ongoing monitoring system that benchmarks progress, has agreed accountability across sectors, has the ability to analyse subsets of the population and clear lines of monitoring responsibility. The report to the February PHAC meeting will include:

- a narrowly focused stocktake of the current monitoring accountability regime(s) and current plans for improvement
- a first draft of the elements of a good and enduring framework (look across countries)
- how to sustain regimes over time.

### **Agenda item 6.3: The Urban Environment and Health**

A draft project profile was discussed. Decisions on project scope and actions included:

- indicate to the Minister a more active way of working where the PHAC will be an agent of change as well as reporting to the Minister on its activities
- take a lifecourse and equity approach to the project, making sure the voice of the people comes through

- a focus on urban settings (rather than the dichotomy between the built environment and the social and cultural environment)
- choose a range of writers from other sectors to write think pieces or to present papers at a PHAC conference
- explore opportunities to work with MfE on regional workshops.

Actions:

- Outline the proposed approach for this project with the Minister at the meeting on the evening of 21 November

**General**

- To continue with the public health update at the beginning of PHAC meetings
- To include on the agenda for the PHAC meeting in February 07, the work programme (post HIA) and the paper on committee purpose, role and ways of working.

**Next meeting: Monday 19 February in Wellington**

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

..... (Chair)      Date.....