

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 18 Sept 2006 2pm – 6pm

Present: Geoff Fougere (Chair)
Andrew Moore
Riripeti Haretuku
Phil Shoemack
Lynette Stewart (from 4pm)

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

Apologies Linda Holloway
Neil Pearce

Tabled Papers

Child health project profile

Child health discussion questions

Signatories to the Urban Design Protocol

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes – confirmed

Matters arising

Secretariat to follow up SPD for a list of agencies that have an MoU with the Ministry of Health.

Correspondence

Letter from Don Matheson requesting a replacement for Robert Logan on the External Reference Group for the Public Health Bill.

Agreed to ask Linda in the first instance. Secretariat to contact her.

Agenda Item 6.1: Health Impact Assessment

Discussion centred on the draft public report which will be designed as a marketing tool across sectors. Some general suggestions were made for revision to the report.

Key points from the discussion included:

- the need to “sell” mutual benefit of using HIA
- make explicit who should use HIA and in what settings

- where is the leadership and where to access support, evidence and other resources?

Agreed to hold the report until the Minister has responded to the PHAC report and some decisions have been made within the Ministry. These should be reported on but should not delay the current report beyond the end of the calendar year.

Other decisions made included:

- Ministerial endorsement of the report will be sought, ideally from the Prime Minister to indicate a 'whole of government' initiative; if not then from the Minister of Health and one other non-health Minister (Social Development?)
- The HIA webpage should begin on the PHAC website but could be transferred to another website once the 'ownership' of HIA is established.

Some more specific changes to the draft report were suggested. The secretariat will make the changes and submit to the next PHAC meeting.

Agenda item 6.2: The Health of Children and Young People

The secretariat had prepared an options paper for discussion. The difficulty of scoping a project with such a broad range of determinants was acknowledged. The four proposed priority areas outlined in the paper were seen as helpful.

Key discussion points included two possible versions of the project that were reflected in the options paper:

- i) How to create a framework to put children more clearly on the policy agenda; documenting health status over time compared with other countries; what data is available for monitoring and who is responsible?
- ii) The range of factors affecting child health; where should a focus on children be co-ordinated from?

Other points included:

- more cogency is needed in addressing child health – how to undo current fragmentation. This leads to the theme of past PHAC projects - intersectoral collaboration
- a focus on children in various settings and how agencies can contribute
- a focus on child wellbeing would reflect a 'whole of government' approach; "it takes a village to raise a child"
- the need for a preliminary look at the four priority areas in the context of 0-8 years.

Agreed: that for the November meeting a preliminary picture be built up covering the four priority areas outlined in the paper, using evidence we already have, what we still need and which agencies to talk with.

Agenda item 6.3: The Urban Environment and Health

The project manager introduced some of the concepts as discussion starters, reporting on the Urbanisation, Environment and Health Conference in Canberra, a meeting with the Urban team at Ministry for the Environment, and a seminar on "transit-oriented development". The secretariat will also be making contact with the Institute of Architects. Other key contacts suggested were engineers and town planners. Also

John Gray, Victoria School of Architecture, and Robin Kearns, Dept Geography Auckland University.

Other key points included:

- the overlap between public health and sustainability
- historical links between public health and urban issues – co-evolution
- linkages with HIA
- built environment as a context for urban social issues
- some Councils using the international framework “smart growth” and some are actively trying to exclude public health.

Agreed that process would include:

- a conference, and perhaps a series of regional workshops, that would provide an opportunity to present challenging ideas
- start with an urban design focus and widen out to social consequences.

Next meeting: Monday 20 November in Wellington

- sign-off of HIA report
- consider the feasibility study in child health.

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

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