

# MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY MEETING

*Tuesday 10 October 2006, 7:30pm – 8:30pm  
Beehive Room 5.5, Parliament Buildings Wellington*

## MINUTES

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

#### **Ministers Present:**

Hon Jim Anderton (Chair) –  
Associate Minister of Health  
Hon Harry Duynhoven –  
Minister of Transport Safety  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta –  
Minister of Customs;  
Minister of Youth Affairs  
Hon Clayton Cosgrove –  
Associate Minister of Justice  
Hon Ruth Dyson –  
Associate Minister of Social  
Development  
Hon Damien O'Connor – Associate  
Minister of Health  
Minister of Corrections  
(Arrived at 8.20pm)

#### **Apologies:**

Hon Steve Maharey –  
Minister of Education  
Annette King –  
Minister of Police  
Hon Parekura Horomia –  
Minister of Maori Affairs

#### **Officials Present:**

Ashley Bloomfield – Health  
Olivia Stapleton – Health  
Chris Laurenson – Health  
Sandra Kirby – ALAC  
Bronwyn Donaldson – Corrections  
Kaylene Katene – Health  
Amy Russell - MYD  
Lesley Daly – Police  
Gordon Hook – Justice  
Terry Brown – Customs  
Ginny Legge – Customs  
Sheridan Smith – Justice

Ian MacDonald - Education  
Ross Judge – MSD  
Bronwyn Donaldson – Corrections  
Shelly Tuck– Office of Hon Harry  
Duynhoven  
Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim  
Anderton  
Arthur Grooby – Office of Hon  
Nanaia Mahuta  
Rob Beaglehole – Office of Hon  
Damien O'Connor  
Nathan Clark – Office of Hon  
Clayton Cosgrove

#### **Guests Present:**

Barry Hellberg, New Zealand Retailers Association

## **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the previous meeting on 13 June 2006 were agreed as a true and accurate record and authorisation was given for the minutes to be placed on the NDP website.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 13 JUNE 2006**

### **3.1 *Minute Item 3* Drug Related Paraphernalia Update**

Hon Anderton reported that complete cross party agreement had not been obtained to the proposed amendment to section 22(1A) of the Misuse of Drugs Act (1975) to be included in an omnibus Bill.

***Agreed:***

**That the office of the Associate Minister of Health would clarify with the disagreeing party as to why support was not provided.**

### **3.2 *Minute Item 4* NDP Discretionary Grant Fund**

Ministers were interested with the progress of the Phobic Trust research Project. Health officials advised MCDP that there were no outstanding issues with the research project and delivery of the final report was on track.

### **3.3 *Minute Item 5* BZP Research Results**

Health confirmed the research results from the studies conducted by the University of Auckland, Medical Research Institute of New Zealand and the Poisons Centre are due at the end of November.

***Agreed:***

**BZP research results due to be completed before the end of the year will be sent to all members of the MCDP, before results are made public.**

### **3.4 *Minute Item 8* NOS Update**

Hon Anderton advised that the Hornby Police have reported a decrease in Nitrous Oxide (NOS) related incidents and NOS raids have been actioned, however they are unsure if NOS is still being sold in Christchurch and no retailer prosecutions have been made.

***Agreed:***

**That Police and Health would provide an update on whether NOS is still being sold illegally and any plans for further controlled purchase operations.**

**3.5 *Minute Item 9* Methamphetamine Plan Update**

Health advised that the methamphetamine plan is to be a review item at the IACD strategic planning day, scheduled to be held 10 November 2006.

***Agreed:***

**That IACD will report back to the next MCDP meeting on the methamphetamine plan.**

**4. NATIONAL DRUG POLICY 2006-2011**

Health gave an overview of the changes made to the draft National Drug Policy as a result of national consultation, which included:

- Refined objectives based on the consultation responses
- The addition of four further principles including evidence informed policy; “whole of government” approach; partnerships; and reducing inequalities
- Inclusion of at risk groups, including Maori, young people and Pacific peoples
- Development of an on-line evidence base
- Development of action plans

Members raised concerns that using ethnicity to identify groups most at risk was too narrow and did not consider broader issues such as socio-economic status, family structure or income.

***Agreed:***

**That Health and MSD would develop new wording to incorporate a two layered, evidence based approach to identify at risk groups. The first layer would identify the risk factors for drug abuse, and the second layer would identify high risk groups (e.g. Maori and Pacific peoples) that are more likely to be exposed to the risk factors.**

**The Ministerial Committee endorsed, subject to approval of the above changes and any other minor editorial changes required, the draft as the policy to be recommended to the Government as the National Drug Policy 2006-2011. Health is to draft a cabinet paper pending MCDP approval of changes.**

## 5. VOLATILE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Barry Hellberg, the Government Relations Consultant for the New Zealand Retailers Association joined the meeting for this item.

Hon Anderton gave an overview of the decision from the 15 February MCDP meeting to investigate a voluntary code of practice with the New Zealand Retailers Association. Mr Hellberg indicated that the Retailers Association would endorse a national voluntary code and suggested that MCDP provide him with a list of substances that leading agencies consider important in the issue of volatile substance abuse.

Ministers commented that the endorsement by the Retailers Association offers many practical applications for limiting volatile substance abuse.

### ***Agreed:***

**That Health would provide Barry Hellberg with information under a letter sent by Hon Jim Anderton, on behalf of the Ministerial Committee encouraging the development of a voluntary code. The information will specify:**

- **Substances identified by the Coroner's report that have been implicated in substance related deaths**
- **A list of substances that have the potential for abuse**

**That Police would provide a report to the Ministerial Committee on the response taken when youth are caught for unlawful spray paint graffiti.**

## 6. ALCOHOL AND ILLCIT DRUGS IN PRISON

This item was deferred to the next MCDP meeting.

## 7. ILLICIT TOBACCO

Hon Mahuta gave an overview of the findings and recommendations of a Customs Service review into the scale of illicit tobacco manufacture and trade in New Zealand.

Four options were identified: maintaining the status quo; clarification of the personal use exemption; prohibition of tobacco growing and enhanced licensing regime.

### ***Agreed:***

**That clarification of the personal use exemption would be the appropriate option to pursue.**

## **8. UPDATE ON CULTURE CHANGE PROGRAMME**

Alcohol Advisory Council (ALAC) provided an update on the marketing component of ALAC's Culture Change programme. After 12 months, ALAC said that they had achieved all goals related to attitudinal changes. The next phase of the campaign is the 'think' stage, which aims to raise people's awareness that their behaviour maybe contributing to alcohol related harm. ALAC acknowledged the contribution of other agencies, including Police, Health and endorsement from SOLA.

The overall success of the campaign will be evaluated by behavioural change, for example, a reduction of two standard drinks for those drinking more than seven standard drinks.

## **9. REVIEW OF THE REGULATION OF ALCOHOL ADVERTISING**

This item was deferred to the next MCDP meeting.

## **10. ALCOHOL AND ILLICT DRUGS MONITORING REPORT UPDATE**

An update of the Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Monitoring report was noted.

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be organised for early February 2007 and arranged by Minister Anderton's office, in consultation with other Ministers.