



**MINUTES**  
**MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING**

***Tuesday 12 November 2002***  
***7.30pm - 8.40pm***

***Meeting Room 5.4***  
***Parliament Buildings, Wellington***

**Ministers present:**

Hon Jim Anderton (Chair) - *Associate Health (Illicit Drugs)*  
Hon Lianne Dalziel - *Associate Education*  
Hon John Tamihere - *Youth Affairs*  
Hon Rick Barker - *Customs*  
Hon Damien O'Connor - *Associate Health (Alcohol and Tobacco)*  
Hon Mark Gosche - *Corrections*  
Hon Dover Samuels - *Associate Minister of Economic Development*

**Apologies:**

Hon Phil Goff - *Justice*  
Hon Steve Maharey - *Social Services & Employment*  
Hon George Hawkins - *Police*

**MCDP Secretariat (Health)**

Andrew Zielinski  
Brendon Baker  
Matthew Andrews

# MINUTES

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 1. ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS

#### ***Discussion:***

Discussion centred on the action plan and covered:

- The need to assess the Ministry of Education's work on alcohol and drug use.
- An update on the Sale of Liquor Amendment No. 3 Bill and its progress through the Parliamentary process.
- Police and Alcohol Advisory Council (ALAC) determining parameters for a project relating to enforcement.
- The need for early interventions for at-risk drug and alcohol users.
- Effectiveness of penalties on liquor licence holders.
- Customs' role in drug seizures.

#### ***Actions***

**All agencies to look at the Action Plan on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs, identify any budgetary implications and inform Minister's accordingly.**

**Remove the Sale of Liquor Amendment No. 3 Bill action points from the action plan.**

**Education to provide a paper on the basis of the Health and Physical Education curriculum and where alcohol and other drug education fits into the curriculum for the next MCDP meeting.**

**Police to provide a paper looking at options to improve enforcement of liquor licence regulation by or before the next MCDP meeting. Ministers noted a need for more accurate information on the effectiveness of penalties on liquor licensees and on the changes that have occurred since the lowering of the drinking age.**

### 2. EFFECTIVE DRUG EDUCATION PROJECT

#### ***Discussion***

Minister Anderton outlined the changes to the Ministerial Advisory Group on Drugs and Education (MADGE) project that had been recommended by Youth Affairs.

### ***Actions***

Ministers agreed to the changes suggested, adopting the Effective Drug Education Project in place of the MADGE.

The Ministries of Education and Youth Affairs agreed to provide amended project aims for the next MCDP meeting.

### **3. ALCOHOL EXCISE DUTY AND ALCOHOLIC PRODUCTS DEEMED NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY**

#### ***Discussion***

Minister O'Connor discussed Brian Easton's paper for ALAC, *Taxing Harm: Modernising Alcohol Excise Duties*. The paper covers the issue of anomalies in excise tax for mid alcohol content drinks. The Victorian State Government's approach of banning alcoholic products deemed not in the best interests of the community was discussed. Minister O'Connor sought endorsement from the Committee to conduct further work on both these subjects.

#### ***Actions***

**Note:** The MCDP agreed to the recommendations in the Health paper, *Alcohol Issues – the Excise Duty System and Prohibiting the Supply of Certain Products Deemed not in the Best Interests of the Community* and endorsed further work being conducted.

Minister O'Connor committed to work with the Minister of Finance to address the alcohol excise tax issue in the next budget round.

### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Alcohol and Pharmaceutical Advertising**

#### ***Discussion***

Minister Anderton noted that information had come to his attention on issues relating to alcohol (MCDP papers from the meeting of 13/03/01) and pharmaceutical advertising. He noted that New Zealand was one of the few countries that allows pharmaceutical advertising on television.

#### ***Actions***

**These issues to be considered at the next meeting.**

**5. NEXT MEETING**

**Next meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on the Tuesday of the second sitting week of 2003.**

***The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.***