



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

***Tuesday 13 March 2001
7.30pm - 8.30pm***

***Cabinet Room 8.4
Parliament Buildings, Wellington***

Ministers present:

Hon Annette King (Chair) - Health
Hon Lianne Dalziel - Associate
Education
Hon Steve Maharey - Social Services &
Employment
Hon Tariana Turia - Associate Māori
Affairs, Corrections & Health
Hon Laila Harre - Youth Affairs (from
8pm)
Hon Mark Gosche - Transport & Pacific
Island Affairs

Apologies:

Hon Jim Anderton - Customs
Hon George Hawkins - Police
Hon Matt Robson - Corrections & Courts
Hon Hon Parekura Horomia - Māori Affairs
Hon Phil Goff - Justice

Officials present:

Lyndon Keene – Hon Annette King’s office
Peter Carr – Social Policy
Laurie Gabities - Police
Debbie Matoe – Te Puni Kokiri
Ruth Lawton - Education
Mike MacAvoy - Alcohol Advisory Council
Meg McKenzie - Alcohol Advisory Council

MCDP Secretariat (Health)

Matthew Allen
Andrew Zielinski
Liz Price

MINUTES

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. CANNABIS REVIEW

Ministers noted progress with putting the package of departmental papers together for the Select Committee. The Minister of Health will sign the package off - the papers were expected to be provided to her by the end of the week so that they could be sent to the Select Committee by Monday (19th March). Health and Justice were to brief the Committee on Wednesday 21st March.

NB: The Health Committee will now not start the inquiry until after Easter. Health and Justice will therefore brief the committee at that time.

2. ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

Proposal to switch jurisdiction from the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA)

There was discussion about the effectiveness of the ASA and the pros and cons of self-regulation of alcohol advertising. Ministers agreed that Hon Steve Maharey, as Acting Minister of Broadcasting, would arrange a meeting between the ASA and interested MCDP Ministers. The purpose of the meeting would be to explore ways of encouraging a tighter regime for controlling broadcast alcohol advertising (including publicising the complaint procedures and having input into the Code for Advertising Liquor).

Action arising: Health (Allen) was asked to meet with Mr Maharey to discuss the issues to be raised with the ASA; and to assist with arranging a meeting between the ASA and MCDP Ministers.

Options for a Departmental or Independent review of alcohol advertising

Consideration of this paper was deferred until the outcome of the above meeting is known.

3. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

Ministers expressed support for the proposed work programme, and the focus that has been suggested on the following areas:

- Scoping the need for community-based initiatives to reduce drug use
- Action on Hepatitis C
- Drug-related research

- Youth drinking, and evaluating the impact of amendments to the Sale of Liquor Act 1999
- Needle and Syringe Exchange Programme.

Health noted that Te Puni Kokiri was going to confirm which working parties it would be part of with the IACD. Health will also check with Pacific Island Affairs as to which working parties it wishes to take part in.

It was noted that Justice has indicated that it will take part in the community-based initiatives project.

It was noted that it was possible that some working groups would not be able to commence their work in this financial year due to other work priorities. However, they will all be established and operating as soon as possible.

4. LAUNCHING OF NATIONAL ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Ministers agreed that the launch of the National Alcohol Strategy be delayed until sometime in April (probably the third week) so as to not clash with the release of other strategies and reports.

Action arising: Health will liaise with the office of the Minister of Health on the timing of the launch.

5. NOTING ITEMS

Ministers noted the papers on the following items:

- Update on progress on the establishment of the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs
- Communications Strategy
- IACD six-monthly reports.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Future of the MCDP

There was some discussion over the future of the MCDP. This concerned whether there was merit in continuing with a separate ad hoc committee for the National Drug Policy or whether responsibility should be transferred to the Education and Health Cabinet Committee. The Secretariat explained the background to the establishment of the IACD and MCDP and the value assigned to joint Ministerial action. It was also noted that the MCDP provided an avenue for the IACD to present joint strategies for endorsement, and potential funding proposals. Ministers agreed to defer further consideration of the future of the MCDP until the next meeting.