

# MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY MEETING

*Wednesday 14 March 2007, 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 Damien O'Connor –  
Associate Minister of Health  
Minister of Corrections  
Hon Ruth Dyson – Associate Minister  
of Social Development

#### **Apologies:**

Hon Steve Maharey –  
Minister of Education  
Annette King –  
Minister of Police  
Hon Clayton Cosgrove –  
Associate Minister of Justice

#### **Officials Present:**

Chris Laurenson – Health  
Olivia Tuatoko – Health  
Mark Heffernan – Health  
Olivia Stapleton – Health  
Vicki Blake – Health  
  
Wendy Moore – ALAC  
Bronwyn Donaldson – Corrections  
David Negri – Customs  
Clare Helliwell – Customs  
John Dermott - Education  
Sheridan Smith – Justice  
Alison Stephens – Justice  
Elisabeth Numan-Parsons – Justice  
Lesley Daly – Police  
Tracy White – Social Development

Nathan Clark –  
Office of Hon Clayton  
Cosgrove  
Graham Marshall –  
Office of Hon Steve  
Maharey  
Heather Jones –  
Office of Hon Jim Anderton  
Andrew Bichan –  
Office of Hon Damien  
O'Connor  
Barry Ebert –  
Office of Hon Clayton  
Cosgrove

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting on 10 October 2006 were agreed as a true and accurate record and authorisation was given for the minutes to be placed on the National Drug Policy website.

It was agreed that in future, minutes would be circulated and approved out of session and authorisation for the minutes to be published on the National Drug Policy website given at that time.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 10 OCTOBER 2006**

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

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

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

Health confirmed that the funding for the 06/07 round of the NDP Discretionary Grant Fund was on target. Call for proposals for the 07/08 round will be sent by 31 March 2007, with the deadline for submitting proposals being 7 May 2007.

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

Hon Anderton noted that Ministerial Committee members had been kept informed of BZP research results and the advice provided by the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs.

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

Hon Anderton reported a significant decrease in the retail of NOS for recreational purposes. There was discussion on any continued retail sales and the prosecution of a Christchurch retailer scheduled for June. Hon Anderton committed to reporting on the outcome of that case and any further planned Health enforcement action around NOS at the next meeting.

#### **3.5 *Minute Item 3.5* Methamphetamine Plan Update**

The Methamphetamine Action Plan was discussed under agenda item six.

#### **3.6 *Minute Item 4* National Drug Policy 2007-2012**

Hon Anderton noted that the launch of the National Drug Policy is being held on 15 March 2007.

Hon Anderton commented that in order to make the new National Drug Policy effective it is imperative for priorities to have a strong inter-agency commitment at a senior level.

**Agreed:**

**That the Chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs will report on the workings of the Inter-Agency Committee and make recommendations to the Ministerial Committee on how it could be strengthened and improved.**

### **3.7 Minute Item 5 Volatile Substance Abuse**

Hon Anderton reported that he was awaiting a response from Mr Barry Hellberg, the Government Relations Consultant for the New Zealand Retailers Association, to the letter he sent, on behalf of the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy, encouraging the development of a voluntary code.

**Agreed:**

**That the Office of Hon Anderton would follow up on a response from Mr Hellberg.**

## **4. BZP UPDATE**

Hon Anderton informed the Committee that the public consultation on the proposed classification of BZP and related substances has been extended to 23 March 2007. Hon Anderton advised that he will make his recommendation on the proposed classification of BZP and related substances by the end of May 2007.

Members briefly discussed recent issues involving BZP, such as the collapse of a Greymouth 'disc jockey' who allegedly collapsed after consuming BZP based 'party pills'.

## **5. NATIONAL DRUG POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PLANS**

Committee members discussed the need for the development of Action Plans following the release of the new National Drug Policy.

**Agreed:**

**That the Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs develop a new *Action Plan on Alcohol and Illegal Drugs* for submission to the next Ministerial Committee meeting.**

**The Action Plan should contain the identified priority areas of action for the Inter-Agency Committee, including:**

- **implementation of a new on-line evidence source**
- **revision of the National Alcohol Strategy**
- **an update of the methamphetamine action plan**
- **a review of effective drug education**
- **the development of a drug harm index**

**That Police will report on the development of the Drug Harm Index and the possibility of incorporating alcohol and tobacco into this framework.**

Ministers discussed other possible matters to be included in the plan. Officials were asked to ensure that the draft Action Plan take account of all high level actions necessary from their agencies perspective.

## **6. METHAMPETAMINE ACTION PLAN**

Committee members noted that the update of the Methamphetamine Action Plan detailing current Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs initiatives has been completed and a Methamphetamine Action Group has been established to investigate future options for an action plan in relation to amphetamine type substances.

## **7. EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS PROJECT**

Hon O'Connor provided the Ministerial Committee with an update on the two major projects currently being undertaken around mental health, alcohol and other drug problems and offending. The first project focuses on the interface between mental health and alcohol and other drug services and the criminal justice system. This is being undertaken by the Ministries of Health and Justice, with contributions from Police and the Department of Corrections. It will report back to Cabinet in May 2007.

The second project is an assessment on the need and availability of alcohol and other drug services for offenders in the community, and options for expanding these services. This is being conducted by Health and the Department of Corrections. The Ministers of Health and Corrections will receive a report from the Ministries of Health and Corrections on 30 March outlining options for addressing possible service expansion.

## **8. ALCOHOL AND ILLCIT DRUGS IN PRISON**

Hon O'Connor gave an overview of the initiatives undertaken by the Department of Corrections, which are aimed at reducing the occurrence of illicit drugs in prisons. Hon O'Connor noted the steady progress that has been made on reducing the level of illicit drug use in prisons, from 34 percent in 1998 to 15.25 percent in 2005/2006.

Hon O'Connor commented that the general population figure of 32 percent who report having an existing or previous problem with drugs and/or alcohol was very high. Corrections noted that the latest figures suggested 12.63 percent of the general population had alcohol and or other drug problems. It was noted that drug use in prisons reflect the level of drug use in the wider community.

A revised Prison Opioid Substitution and Detoxification Protocol has also been implemented in prisons, allowing any prisoner enrolled in a methadone maintenance treatment programme to continue the treatment while in prison.

Committee members noted this paper.

## **9. REVIEW OF THE SALE AND SUPPLY OF LIQUOR TO MINORS**

Committee members briefly discussed the Terms and Reference for the Review of the Sale and Supply of Liquor to Minors. The report from the Steering Group for the Review will be considered by Cabinet at the end of July 2007.

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

Hon O'Connor updated Committee members on the progress of the Review of the Regulation of Alcohol Advertising. It was reported that 250 written submissions were received from stakeholders. The Steering group will provide an analysis of the submissions and recommendations for clear guidelines on the regulation of alcohol advertising. The final report is due at the end of March 2007.

## **11. CULTURE CHANGE PROGRAMME**

Hon O'Connor updated the Committee on the progress made on the marketing component of the drinking culture change programme. Hon O'Connor reported a high level of identification and recall rate with the messages of the campaign. The campaign aims to change current attitudes to New Zealand's drinking culture over time with the "act" stage of the campaign.

## **12. ALCOHOL AND ILLICT DRUGS MONITORING REPORT**

This item was deferred to the next Ministerial Committee meeting.

## **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **13.1 Gambling Social Marketing Campaign**

Hon O'Connor presented the draft Maori and English versions of the television commercials for the Gambling Social Marketing Campaign. The Campaign is due to be publicly released on 23 March 2007.

### **13.2 Drug Impaired Driving**

In November 2006 the Cabinet Policy Committee agreed to proposed amendments to the Land Transport Act 1998, and agreed the proposed regime should apply to illegal drugs only. Hon Duynhoven reported that a working group on drugged driving are currently reviewing the Land Transport Act 1998, including the introduction of a proposed compulsory roadside impairment test. It is proposed that a discussion document will be released in the first half of 2007. The Cabinet Business Committee have also requested further advice concerning random roadside testing for drugs.

Hon Duynhoven presented a newly manufactured saliva-based drug testing device to Committee members. Hon Duynhoven considered this device could provide a useful road side test to detect the presence of illicit drugs in drivers.

### **13.3 New Zealand Drinking Culture**

Hon Duynhoven commented on the high level of intoxication in New Zealand compared to European countries, suggesting that the way that establishments who serve alcohol deal with intoxicated patrons could play a key role in New Zealand's excessive drinking culture.

#### **Agreed:**

**That ALAC would provide the Chair with a literature review on international drinking culture trends.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

## **14. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be organised mid-July for 2007 and arranged by Hon Anderton's office, in consultation with other Ministers.