



MINUTES OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING

***Monday 21 May 2003
7.10pm – 8.00pm***

***Beehive Rm 5.5
Parliament, Wellington***

Ministers present

Hon Jim Anderton (Chair) – Associate Health

Hon George Hawkins - Police

Hon Lianne Dalziel - Associate Education

Hon Rick Barker - Customs

Hon Damien O'Connor - Associate Health

Apologies

Hon Phil Goff - Justice

Hon Steve Maharey - Social Services and Employment

Hon Paul Swain – Transport, Corrections

Hon Tariana Turia – Associate Health, Associate Maori Affairs, Associate Social Services and Employment

Officials present

Chris Laurenson - Health

Matthew Andrews - Health

Caroline Greaney - Health

Megan O'Brien - Health

Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim Anderton

Dionne Barton – Office of Hon Damien O'Connor

Jayne Wallis – Office of Phil Goff

Kate Gabriel – Office of Hon George Hawkins

Kylie McDonald – Office of the Minister of Corrections

Alison Stephens - Justice

David Negri - Customs

Alan Smith - Customs

Michael Webb – Police

Ruth Lawton - Education

Bronwyn Donaldson – Corrections Department

Monique Leerschool – Youth Affairs

Mike MacAvoy - Alcohol Advisory Council

Discussion Items

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. CONFIRMING MINUTES TO BE PLACED ON NDP WEBSITE

Agreed

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy held on 2 April 2003 be placed on the National Drug Policy website.

3. ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS

Ministers clarified expected completion dates of projects that are behind schedule.

Agreed

A revised monitoring report including completion dates, including treatment projects, to be prepared and distributed to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

A list of new budget initiatives - indicating planned action and milestones - to be compiled and distributed to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

4. METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN

Ministers discussed the significance of the prohibition against possession of needles and syringes for the commission of an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act, in the context of the Needle Exchange Programme (NSEP) which makes such equipment available to injecting drug users.

Agreed

That the wording of the dot point relating to needle possession be re-worded as:

'Further investigation into the effectiveness of Section 13(1)(aa) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 that makes it an offence to possess needles and syringes and the Health (Needles and Syringe) Regulations 1998, that provides a defence.'

That subject to the above amendment the Methamphetamine Action Plan be published.

5. ALCOHOL ADVERTISING REVIEW

Ministers briefly discussed the Alcohol Advertising Review. Ministers discussed when they would meet with the Alcohol Advertising Review Panel.

Agreed

That the Ministry of Health will convey the Ministers' invitation to the Alcohol Advertising Review Panel to meet before their report, or, if this is not possible, to meet after their report.

That ALAC should prepare a paper on the historical sequence of alcohol advertising change in New Zealand.

6. EXCISE TAX ISSUES

Ministers reviewed the implications of the recent changes to alcohol excise tax.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Hon George Hawkins reported that Police would shortly be conducting a mass media campaign (featuring advertisements on TV, in cinemas and through print-based media) on the issue of drink spiking.

Ministers discussed the similarities between the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy, Youth Suicide Committee and Youth Offending Committee and whether there could be advantages in bringing all three under the banner of a Youth Development Committee.

Agreed

That MCDP remain a separate committee in the medium term and that Ministers monitor any possible combining of the Youth Offending and Youth Suicide committees.

That the Ministries of Youth Affairs and Education provide advice for Ministers' consideration on the combination of the other two committees.

8. NEXT MEETING

To be held in 2-3 months time – depending when a meeting with the Advertising Review Committee was arranged.