



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

*Wednesday 23 June 1999
5.10pm – 5.45pm*

*Beehive Rm 5.5
Parliament, Wellington*

Ministers present

Hon Wyatt Creech Minister of Health (Chair)

Apologies

Hon Dr Nick Smith Minister of Education

Hon Maurice Williamson Minister of Transport

Hon Clem Simich Minister of Police, Corrections Hon John Luxton Minister for Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control, Hon Tau Henare Minister of Māori Affairs, Hon Tony Ryall Minister of Justice, Youth Affairs

Officials present

Dr Gillian Durham Ministry of Health, Ms Ria Earp Ministry of Youth Affairs, Mr Kerry Harvey Ministry of Education, Ms Michelle Levy Te Puni Kōkiri, Ms Catherine Coates Police

Mr Dave Negri New Zealand Customs Service

Ms Vivienne Morrell Ministry of Justice

Ms Anne Hartley Department of Corrections, Ms Suzanne Jones Alcohol Advisory Council, Ms Kate Cosgrove Health Funding Authority, Ms Virginia Webb Ministry of Transport

MCDP Secretariat (Health)

Mr Matthew Allen, Ministry of Health

Mr Paul Marriott Lloyd, Ministry of Health

SUMMARY OF ACTION ARISING

Agenda item 1 - National Drug Policy Work Programme

- The Minister noted the progress on the implementation of National Drug Policy work programme. The following projects were discussed in detail.

Agenda item 2 - Drug Paraphernalia Gazette Notice

- The Minister agreed to the preparation of a Gazette Notice to prohibit the importation and sale of drug paraphernalia. The Notice is to be finalised and issued immediately but will not come into effect until July 2000 to give retailers and importers twelve months (rather than the three months previously suggested) to quit stocks. The Minister agreed that no further consultation with retailers or importers was required.

Action arising:

Ministry of Health officials will prepare a Gazette Notice for Mr Creech's signature.

Ministry of Health to advise interested parties in the decision following public notification of the decision by the Minister of Health.

Agenda item 3 - Treatment Services Gap Definition

This information has been withheld to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility and the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown or officials (sections 9(2)(f)(ii) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act).

Agenda item 4 - Economic, Social and Community Development

- The Minister agreed to the scoping of development frameworks for community-orientated approaches to Maori development out of Te Puni Kokiri's existing baselines. However, this project should take into account not only drug-related problems but also wider social, economic and community issues.

Action arising:

Te Puni Kokiri officials to carry out the scoping exercise and report back to the MCDP.

Agenda item 5 - Drug Education in Schools

This information has been withheld to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility and the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown or officials (sections 9(2)(f)(ii) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act).

Agenda item 6 - Dance Party Guidelines

This information has been withheld on the basis that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available (section 18(d) of the Act).

Agenda item 7 - Data and Research

- The Minister discussed the importance of effective and tried and tested programmes, and that consideration should also be given to the suitability/applicability of overseas models to the situation in New Zealand.

Action arising:

Te Puni Kokiri will finalise the list of primary research areas and circulate this list to research providers and funders. The list will emphasise the need for consideration of overseas models and the need for a thorough evaluation of drug-related programmes.

Agenda item 8 - Co-ordinated Resources

- The Minister agreed with the recommendations.

Action arising: That the directory of alcohol and drug treatment services in New Zealand and the database be maintained and readily available.

That the IACD encourage co-ordination and sharing of resources among agencies that produce and use drug-related data and research.

That IACD agencies promote awareness of the availability of drug-related information and where to access it.

That when future alcohol and drug surveys are commissioned they should address the information needs of IACD and other agencies.

That a process be established to ensure that future drug-use surveys are repeated on a regular basis (e.g. five yearly) and in a cost effective way so that a reliable comparison of data over time will be available.

Agenda item 9 - G1

This information has been withheld to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility and the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown or officials (sections 9(2)(f)(ii) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act).

Agenda item 10 - Communication Plan

This information has been withheld on the basis that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available (section 18(d) of the Act).

Agenda item 11 - Evaluation of Demand Reduction Programmes

- The Minister requested advice on demand reduction programmes, how effective such programmes are and what evaluation has been or will be undertaken of these programmes.

Action arising:

Ministries of Health and Education and the HFA to provide advice to the MCDP.