



MINUTES

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING

Wednesday 2 April 2003

7.10pm - 7.40pm

Beehive Room 5.5

Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Ministers present:

Hon Jim Anderton (Chair) - Health
Hon Phil Goff - Justice
Hon Damien O'Connor - Health
Hon Rick Barker - Customs
Hon Steve Maharey - Social Services & Employment

Apologies:

Hon Lianne Dalziel - Associate Education
Hon Margaret Wilson - Courts

Officials present:

Alison Stephens - Justice
Ruth Lawton - Education
Louise Young - Treasury
Alan Smith - Customs
Wendy Moore - Alcohol Advisory Council

Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim Anderton
Dionne Barton – Office of Hon Damien O'Connor

MCDP Secretariat (Health)

Chris Laursen
Matthew Andrews
Caroline Greaney

MINUTES

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 12 November 2002 and 18 February 2003 be placed on the National Drug Policy website subject to certain confidential information being withheld.

3. ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS

Hon Phil Goff outlined the responses received by non-governmental organisations to the Action Plan on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs. He commented that all feedback had been positive but there were a variety of recommendations and areas for individual agencies to address.

Agreed

- (a) That the Ministry of Justice review the non-government agencies' suggestions relating to the purposes and aims of the Action Plan and include them where appropriate;*
- (b) That the comments in Appendix One relating to projects being lead by ALAC, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Health, NZ Customs, Department of Corrections, NZ Police and the Ministry of Justice be referred to these agencies for their consideration;*
- (c) That the further new proposals outlined in the Ministers' December letter and the non-government agencies comments be referred to the agencies who would be responsible for their implementation for them to consider whether or not they should included in the Action Plan;*
- (d) That the Ministry of Health should review the new proposals and consider whether or not they should be included in the Action Plan;*
- (e) That the Ministry of Justice provide any agency with copies of the submissions on request.*

4. ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS: MONITORING REPORT ON PROJECTS AND SUB-PROJECTS

The paper setting out progress on the Action Plan was noted. Hon Phil Goff asked what the difference between item 1 – Ministry of Youth affairs led review of best practice in health education which included a literature review identifying evidence-

based practice and item 2 – an ALAC led review of literature determining the effectiveness of alcohol and drug programmes.

Agreed:

(a) That the Ministry of Justice take up the matter of literature reviews on drug and alcohol programmes with ALAC and the Ministry of Youth Affairs to ensure that there are no duplications of effort and to report back to the next meeting of the MCDP.

5. ALCOHOL EXCISE DUTY

The MCDP discussed two papers regarding this issue.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Adult Drug Courts

Hon Phil Goff advised MCDP that he had declined a proposal by Judge Walker to institute a adult drug court in Wellington on the grounds that the Christchurch Youth Drug Court had not yet been evaluated and also because the implications of running an adult drug court would be considerable.

(2) Media Statements on Drug Action Plan

Hon Phil Goff noted that the Customs press statement in relation to Project Horizon identified the role of the MCDP. He considered that a press statement should be issued on the actions taken so far in relation to the drug action plan.

Agreed:

(a) Ministry of Justice, in consultation with IACD agencies and the Chair's office, to prepare a press release in consultation with IACD agencies.

(3) Budget Bid

Hon Jim Anderton advised the MCDP of the outcome of the Progressive Coalition's budget bid in relation to drug issues. It was noted that full details would be available in the budget.

7. NEXT MEETING

Staff from Hon Jim Anderton's office agreed to identify and promulgate an appropriate date for the next meeting.