



MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING

*Tuesday 2 September 2003
7.30 pm – 8.00 pm*

*Beehive Rm 5.5
Parliament, Wellington*

Ministers present:

Hon Jim Anderton (Chair) – Associate Health
Hon Phil Goff - Justice
Hon George Hawkins - Police
Hon Ruth Dyson – Associate Minister of Health
Hon Damien O'Connor - Associate Health

Apologies:

Hon Rick Barker - Customs
Hon Steve Maharey - Social Services & Employment
Hon Paul Swain – Transport, Corrections
Hon Tariana Turia – Associate Health, Associate Minister Maori Affairs, Associate Minister Social Services and Employment.
Hon John Tamihere – Minister of Youth Affairs, Associate Minister of Maori Affairs
Hon Lianne Dalziel - Associate Education

Officials present:

Chris Laurenson - Health
Helen Hunter - Health
Megan O'Brien - Health
Alison Stephens – Justice
Michael Webb - Police
Guy Wilson-Roberts - Police
David Negri - Customs
Wendy Moore – Alcohol Advisory Council

Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim Anderton
Jayne Wallis – Office of Hon Phil Goff
Kate Gabriel – Office of Hon George Hawkins
Dionne Barton – Office of Hon Damien O'Connor

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Update on controlled purchase operations (CPOs)

Section 182 of the Sale of Liquor Act will be amended, as part of the Sale of Liquor Act Amendment Bill, shortly to be introduced to the House to enable CPOs to be conducted by Police without conflicting with the offence of being party to a minor purchasing liquor.

3. Paper on key trends in alcohol-related offending

A paper highlighting trends in alcohol-related offending was discussed by the Committee. The paper noted a near 80% increase in recorded offences for breaches of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 from the previous year and a doubling of the offence rate per 10,000 population.

4. MCDP Media Release or Report

Hon Jim Anderton raised the question of whether the MCDP should produce a regular report of MCDP action taken, in addition to current communication strategy.

Agreed

- a. ***That Hon Ruth Dyson will speak to Heather Simpson about a budget allocation to cover the costs of producing a 2-page report.***

5. Possible briefings to MCDP by Experts

Both John Wiggers, an Australian expert on reducing alcohol-related offending and Dr Viola Palmer from Group against Liquor Advertising (GALA) have expressed interest in briefing the MCDP. It was noted that the process in reviewing alcohol advertising and the promotion of moderate drinking through the media needs further consideration.

Agreed

- a. ***That John Wiggers will be invited to brief the MCDP on his work with the New South Wales police when he is visiting New Zealand later this year. Police to liaise with Minister Anderton's office regarding this.***
- b. ***That Minister Anderton's office will send a letter to Dr Viola Palmer, from Group Against Liquor Advertising, explaining that it will not be necessary for her to brief the MCDP about liquor advertising as some members of the Committee had met recently with Sally Casswell of SHORE and Sally Jackman of the NZDF and were well briefed on the issues.***
- c. ***That the MCDP focuses on issues related to liquor advertising at a subsequent meeting.***
- d. ***That the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with ALAC, will provide a paper summarising work which has been done on the reasons why young people binge drink.***

6. Update on Residential Youth Treatment Centre

The final service specification for the residential youth treatment centre should be finalised by 18 September. The Request for Proposals process will begin in October.

It was noted that the paper on treatment gaps would be considered at the next MCDP meeting.

Agreed

- a. That the Ministry of Health and ALAC will prepare a summary of drug and alcohol residential treatment centres focusing on facilities that target men, women and youth.**

7. Update on the Review of the National Drug Policy

Ministers considered the future of the National Drug Policy (NDP) which is scheduled to end in 2003. Three options had been considered. Firstly, with minor editing the document to ensure its currency, the current strategy could be endorsed, as appropriate for the next five years. Secondly the NDP could be dispensed with altogether and focus be placed on informal mechanisms for encouraging intersectoral collaboration to reduce drug-related harm. Lastly a review of the current NDP, with a view to developing a new strategy for 2004 to 2008. Such a review would be carried out over a twelve month period and fully canvassed all future options to provide a targeted and New Zealand-specific strategy to address drug-related harm. The strategy would be widely consulted upon.

Agreed

- a That it is not appropriate to dispense with the National Drug Policy, nor simply to endorse the current National Drug Policy for the next five years.**
- b That a thorough review of the National Drug Policy will be carried out which will**
- Assess the effectiveness of the current policy and its implementation;**
 - Review the impact of the NDP in terms of stakeholder support and its contribution to reduction of drug related harm in New Zealand;**
 - Identify options for future drug policy directions in New Zealand;**
 - Determine the best approach for a future National Drug Policy including the relative focus on strategic versus action oriented approaches**
 - Develop a draft Strategy for endorsement by Government, including a process for evaluating the effectiveness of that Strategy.**
- c That the review will be managed by the Ministry of Health**

8. Other business

There was no other business.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting is to take place at 7.30 pm on 8 October