

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY MEETING

*Tuesday 7 August 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 Damien O'Connor –
Associate Minister of Health
Minister of Corrections
Hon Harry Duynhoven –
Minister of Transport Safety

Hon Ruth Dyson – Associate
Minister of Social Development
Hon Nanaia Mahuta –
Minister of Customs
Minister of Youth Affairs

Apologies:

Hon Clayton Cosgrove –
Associate Minister of Justice

Hon Annette King -
Minister of Police

Officials Present:

Ashley Bloomfield – Health
Chris Laurenson – Health
Olivia Tuatoko – Health
Bruce Atmore – Health
Barbara Phillips – Health
Tracy White – Social Development
Terry Brown – Customs
David Negri – Customs
John Dermott – Education
Alison Stephens – Justice

Nathan Clark –
Office of Hon Clayton Cosgrove
Andrew Bichan –
Office of Hon Damien O'Connor
Shelly Tucker –
Office of Hon Harry Duynhoven
Heather Jones –
Office of Hon Jim Anderton
Helen Feilding – Transport
Geoffrey Dunn – Police

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 14 MARCH 2007

2.1 *Minute Item 3.4 NOS Update*

Following up from the March meeting, officials advised the Ministers that a prosecution has been successful. Prosecutions are also pending of other outlets in Christchurch that were still selling NOS, when controlled purchase operations were undertaken in May.

2.2 *Minute Item 3.6 Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs workings*

To be discussed as agenda Item 3: Report on IACD

2.3 Minute Item 3.7 Volatile Substance Abuse

Hon Anderton's office followed up on a response from Mr Hellberg.

2.4 Minute Item 5 NDP and the Development of Action Plans

To be discussed as agenda Item 4: Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Monitoring Report.

2.5 Minute Item 13.3 New Zealand Drinking Culture

A review on international drinking culture trends had been provided to the Chair.

3. REPORT ON IACD

Hon Anderton reminded the Committee that at the March 2007 meeting, it was requested that the IACD Chair report back on current participation and engagement by IACD agencies.

The IACD Chair (Ashley Bloomfield, Ministry of Health) presented a report to the Committee and it was agreed to invite Chief Executives of agencies to one MCDP meeting per year, to ensure that agencies are aware of issues relating to drugs. This awareness is expected to strengthen the existing participation by IACD agencies by giving support towards the interagency work.

Action:

MCDP Chairman to send a brief summary of this meeting to member agency CEO's.

4. ALCOHOL & ILLEGAL DRUG MONITORING REPORT

Officials explained that due to the time constraints of Ministers who belong to the MCDP, this monitoring report was developed to provide consistent and brief information at a high level.

The Committee noted the Alcohol & Illegal Drug Monitoring report.

5. DEVELOPING AN ILLEGAL DRUG HARM INDEX

The Committee agreed with the IACD's advice, that the Drug Harm Index would not incorporate alcohol or tobacco, due to good information on the harms from tobacco and alcohol already being available.

The Committee noted that the timeline for completion of this project is March 2008.

Action:

That Police will report at the next MCDP meeting on progress on the Illegal Drug Harm Index project.

6. 2006 ILLICIT DRUGS MONITORING SYSTEM (IDMS) – RECENT TRENDS IN ILLEGAL DRUG USE IN NEW ZEALAND

The Committee noted the results from the 2006 IDMS survey. The Committee was advised that there are annual reports produced from this System.

7. ILLEGAL MANUFACTURING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Hon Mahuta reported on the issue of cultivation and illegally manufactured tobacco products and options for addressing this problem. Hon Mahuta advised that this was a further paper from the paper considered at the October 2006 MCDP meeting.

This paper was to be used as a tool to get a direction from the Committee and the appropriate steps to be taken.

Committee members discussed the various options and decided that Cabinet discussion of the issue was the appropriate next step.

Action:

Hon Mahuta to raise the issue of illegal manufacturing of tobacco products in Cabinet.

8. NDP DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND

Twenty applications were received for the 07/08 round of the fund, requesting an amount of \$1,924,069.53 (GST excl). An IACD sub-committee, comprising members from Health, Police, ALAC, and ACC, completed an initial evaluation of the proposals and recommended that 10 applicants receive funding.

The paper summarised each proposal and the subcommittee's conclusions reached. One proposal awaited peer review by an independent researcher and four other proposals were returned to submitters to be revised. The Committee considered and discussed all of the proposals, largely agreeing with the subcommittee's conclusions. One proposal was considered to have merit. There was however, concern that the project would not be able to secure on-going funding after the initial year of funding. Discussion centred on the appropriateness of DHB funding. Hon Anderton agreed that this proposal was important and needed to be followed up by Christchurch MPs.

The Committee discussed other initiatives, such as theatre productions in schools, and whether they should be supported without being part of a comprehensive programme. The Committee subsequently agreed to fund two such proposals; Crash Bash and the Rubicon Road Show, and agreed to look at this matter at a later time.

Agreed:

1. That the MCDP approves the following proposals for funding (all amounts are exclusive of GST):

- The use, effects and self-reported adverse effects of legally available and unclassified psychoactive substances in New Zealand among young people: a web-based survey, by Auckland UniServices Ltd. This proposal will be funded for \$149,258
- Securing Christchurch halfway house, by Elm Tree Lodge. This proposal will be funded for \$46,222.22
- Building parent and caregiver's knowledge and skills around alcohol supply to minors with the aim of reducing alcohol related harm, by Educating NZ. This proposal will be funded for \$70,622.80
- CrashBash Road show - North Canterbury, by Waimakariri Community Development Trust - Youth Drug and Alcohol Service (YDA). This proposal will be funded for \$14,222.22
- What do health care professionals know and do about maternal alcohol and other drug use during pregnancy?, by Alcohol Healthwatch Trust & University of Auckland. This proposal will be funded for \$68,950
- Factors that support abstinence or responsible alcohol consumption amongst Pacific youth: A qualitative investigation, by Clinical Research and Resources, Waitemata DHB. This proposal will be funded for \$97,404.20
- Life to the Max, Horowhenua Trust, by MSD & Police. This proposal will be funded for \$64,444.44
- Rubicon AOD Road show, by Rubicon Youth Alcohol and DrugSupport Services Charitable Trust. This proposal will be funded for \$33,600.

2. That MCDP approves in principle, subject to peer review by an independent researcher and confirmation by the MCDP Chair, funding for the following application:

- Characteristics of non-alcohol/drug-users, particularly non drinking (or non-problem-drinking and non-smoking) Maori youth (under age 18), by Te Runganga O Kirikiriroa Trust Inc. Pending approval, this proposal will be funded for \$120,000.
3. *That MCDP approves the following proposals for funding, subject to applicants modifying their proposals where appropriate:*
- Individual dollar expenditures on illegal drug use and drug related property crime, by SHORE. Pending approval, this proposal will be funded for \$31,630
 - The relationship between drug use and criminal offending among arrestees in New Zealand, by SHORE. Pending approval, this proposal will be funded for \$37,956.
4. That MCDP approves the following proposal for funding, subject to the applicant modifying their proposal:
- Individual dollar expenditures on illegal drug use and drug related property crime, by SHORE. Pending approval, this proposal will be funded for \$31,630
 - Addictions Sector Policy Development, by Alcohol Drug Association NZ. Pending approval, this proposal will be funded for \$88,888.89.

Action:

Hon Anderton requested an up date on budget spending of the past funding years, with explanations of shortfalls and overspends.

Hon Anderton requested a brief report for the next MCDP meeting with the results of the all research funded in the past funding rounds. This report will outline whether the proposals have met the objectives they proposed and if the proposals have made a contribution to the policy process.

Hon Duynhoven requested further details on High on Life Taranaki to be sent to him.

Hon Dyson requested to be updated at the next meeting on the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003, which requires boards to be created for occupational groups. Hon Dyson suspected that each organisation may be funding it's own board in the alcohol and drug treatment area, which could potentially be using funding that, would otherwise go towards treatment programmes in the community.

9. DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED BY DRUGS - LAND TRANSPORT AMENDMENT BILL (ORAL UPDATE)

Hon Duynhoven provided an oral update on the proposed changes to the Land Transport Amendment Bill. Due to the prevalence of drugged drivers, and evidence showing that drugged drivers are also drunk drivers, it is proposed that a roadside test will be made compulsory.

Hon Duynhoven informed the Committee that preliminary data in Victoria, Australia has shown persons impaired by drugs were four to five times more prevalent than those impaired by alcohol.

The proposed test would firstly test drivers through the current breathalyser; the second option would be a physical test; and the third option, to take blood for testing. The testing of blood is currently done when testing for alcohol however this change will also be able to test for drugs in the system.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. PROJECT STOP

Hon Anderton noted that further information is needed to develop this project. The Committee was informed that diversion of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine based products is likely still occurring despite voluntary regimes being in place, such as pharmacists requesting identification from purchasers of these products and liaison with local Police. This project attempts to assist pharmacies by monitoring sales and providing information for enforcement purposes when required. A similar tool is showing promising results in Queensland, Australia.

Action:

Hon Anderton to write to the three organisations representing pharmacies.

11.1 BZP

Hon Anderton noted the need for agencies, which had supported the classification of BZP to C1, to ensure that any agency spokesperson on the issue was fully informed on the agency's position.

12. NEXT MEETING

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

SIGNED:

DATE: