

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY MEETING

*Monday 28 April 2008, 4.00pm – 5:30pm
Beehive Room 8.4, 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

Hon Harry Duynhoven –
Minister for Transport Safety

Apologies:

Hon Lianne Dalziel –
Associate Minister of Justice
Hon Chris Carter –
Minister of Education
Hon Nanaia Mahuta –
Minister of Customs
Minister of Youth Affairs
Hon Annette King –
Minister of Justice

Hon Phil Goff –
Minister of Corrections
Hon Ruth Dyson –
Minister for Social Development
and Employment
Hon Parekura Horomia –
Minister of Maori Affairs

Officials Present:

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| Chris Laurenson – Health | |
| Olivia Stapleton – Health | Jon Lyall – Police |
| Olivia Tuatoko – Health | Virginia Andersen – Police |
| Bruce Atmore – Health | Helen Feilding – Transport |
| Wendy Moore – ALAC | Kirsty Ruddlesden – Corrections |
| Te Atarangi Whiu - TPK | Alex Handiside – Youth |
| Stuart Mills – NDIB | Michael Harrison – Office of Nanaia Mahuta |
| Bill Perry – Customs | |
| Phil Lockwood – Customs | David Cuthbert – Office of Hon Jim Anderton |
| Michael Harrison – Customs | |
| Clare Helliwell – Customs | Jonathon Jones – Office of Hon Jim Anderton |
| Paul Clarke – Justice | |
| Fiona Roberts – Justice | Andrew Bichan – Office of Hon Damien O'Connor |
| Geoffrey Dunn – Police | |

Guests Present:

Adrian Slack – BERL (attended for Item 6: Illegal Drug Harm Index)

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 7 AUGUST 2007

2.1 Minute Item 3 – Report on IACD

Officials advised they were in process of preparing an invitation from the Chair to CEO's of IACD agencies to attend the next meeting. The invitation will include an update of the previous MCDP meeting.

2.2 Minute Item 5 – Developing an Illegal Drug Harm Index

To be discussed as agenda Item 6: Illegal Drug Harm Index

2.3 Minute Item 7 – Illegal Manufacturing of Tobacco Products

Officials advised that Hon Mahuta raised this issue with Cabinet (13 August 07) where she was invited to submit a paper to the relevant Cabinet Committee to clarify the personal use exemption provisions in the Customs and Excise Act 1996 for tobacco manufacture. These legislative changes are included in the Customs and Excise Amendment Bill (3). Currently this Bill is with Select Committee, with a report back date of 10 June 2008.

2.4 Minute Item 8 – NDP Discretionary Grant Fund

A brief report with the results of research funded through this fund is attached as Appendix B in NDP Discretionary Grant Fund paper.

Hon Duynhoven's request for further details on High on Life Taranaki had been actioned and sent to his office 9 August 07. Hon Duynhoven requested a further copy to be sent to him.

Hon Dyson's request for officials to look into the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act which requires boards to be created for occupational groups was actioned. Information was forwarded onto Hon Dyson's office however a response is needed from Hon Dyson's office to complete action.

2.5 Minute Item 9 – Driving While Impaired by Drugs – Land Transport Amendment Bill

Hon Duynhoven updated the Committee on the changes to the Land Transport Amendment Bill. A new behavioural based impairment test initiative will be made compulsory under the new legislation. Some oral submissions have been heard by Select Committee. Select Committee is expected to report back to the House at the end of June 2008. Ministers of Transport will also report to Cabinet in May 2009 concerning random testing for drugs, which will include options such as roadside saliva testing.

Note: Since the meeting, the report-back date has been put back further to August 2008.

2.6 Minute Item 10 – Project Stop

Hon Anderton had written to pharmacy organisations, requesting their point of view on this initiative. The response was favourable however there were concerns over privacy issues. Further details are to be collected and options are to be discussed by the Methamphetamine Action Group.

A further update on Project Stop initiative will be given at the next MCDP meeting.

3. ALCOHOL & ILLEGAL DRUG MONITORING REPORT

The Committee discussed the monitoring report which was developed to enable the MCDP to ensure progress on drug actions was being maintained. Hon Anderton queried Item 9: Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Bill and requested information about why the Select Committee requested an extension for their report back to the House on the Bill.

Ministry of Justice to advise Hon Anderton's office on the reasons for extension for the report back on the Bill.

Hon Duynhoven asked for further details on project 12: Demand Reduction Campaign. Officials updated the Committee advising that step 3 of the project plan is in progress. A selection panel has been created to choose a provider for this formative research on attitudes towards drug use.

With reference to project 16: the Committee expressed concern over the supply of Ready to Drink (RTD) beverages to minors and the disproportionate harm that they may be causing. There was some discussion about new Australian tax rules on RTD's, especially with the concern of the rising alcohol content in such products.

Action: Health to prepare a report, in consultation with other agencies, for the next meeting on the consumption patterns and trends on RTD's; issues with the availability and price of alcohol in Supermarkets; the use of excise tax as a harm reduction approach; and options for Government to address the problems caused by RTDs, such as minimum price.

4. NDP DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND

The Committee discussed the recommendations of the IACD.

Agreed:

That the following research applications be approved for funding:

1. University of Otago on the “Evaluation of a community-based initiative to reduce alcohol-related harm and disorder,” for funding of \$72,899.38 (GST incl), subject to finding further funding or revise the proposal to make it fit with the funding being offered.
2. Life to the Max Horowhenua, for funding of \$81,562.50 (GST incl)
3. Auckland UniServices on “Dangerous Consumption VI Symposium,” for funding of \$21,700 (GST incl)
4. University of Otago on “Use of opportunity for drug and alcohol advice in General Practice,” for funding of \$17,000 (GST incl)
5. NZ Drug Foundation on “Drug Driving in NZ,” for funding of \$101,200 (GST incl)
6. SHORE on “The prevalence, availability, price and harms of BZP Party Pills following their prohibition in NZ: Comparison of national household survey results from 2006 and 2009,” for funding of \$160,000 (GST incl), subject to finding further funding or revise the proposal to make it fit with the funding being offered.
7. SHORE on “The use of illicitly diverted pharmaceuticals by frequent drug users in NZ: A proposed extension of the 2008 Illicit Drug Monitoring System (IDMS),” for funding of \$45,018 (GST incl)
8. Educating NZ on “Develop guidelines for schools on implementing drug education through the new NZ Curriculum,” for funding of \$91,500 (GST incl)
9. SHORE on “Drug use and driving: A proposed extension of the 2008 Illicit Drug Monitoring System,” for funding of \$9,729 (GST incl)
10. Wellington Community Alcohol and Drugs Service, CCDHB on “Community Outreach Project,” for funding of \$200,291 (GST incl)
11. Alcohol Healthwatch on “Establishing multi-disciplinary diagnostic services for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Aotearoa New Zealand: An evaluated process,” for funding of \$161,100 (GST incl)

Action:

The Committee requested the Secretariat to evaluate the process of the NDP Discretionary Grant Fund and prepare a report before the next funding round on the future direction of the fund with particular reference to whether it should be active or passive in obtaining proposals for expenditure and how to make this more useful to the objectives of the National Drug Policy.

Hon Anderton requested to be updated on the outcome of contractual issues of Richmond Fellowship Inc.

5. CHILD & MATERNAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

A paper was provided to the Committee updating them on the development of the Child and Maternal Health Action Plan on Alcohol and Other Drugs, which aims to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the effects of maternal drug use.

The action plan will focus on prevention, identification/diagnosis and management of FASD and the effects of other drugs. Officials advised that consultation on the discussion document will commence in 2008.

Noted:

The paper was noted by the Committee.

6. ILLEGAL DRUG HARM INDEX

The Committee found this paper informative and interesting.

Noted:

The Committee noted that a model has been developed for the New Zealand Drug Harm Index.

The Committee noted that Police will work with BERL to develop a plan for maintaining the NZDHI.

The Committee noted that Police will lead the development of a media plan for the release of the NZ Drug Harm Index, in consultation with the Steering Group and other IACD member agencies.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other issues were discussed.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting confirmed for Monday 28 July 2008, 4pm – 5pm.