

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY MEETING

*Tuesday 13 December 2005, 7:30pm – 8:44pm
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 Annette King – Minister of Police
Hon Parekura Horomia – Minister of Maori Affairs
Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Minister of Customs
Minister of Youth Affairs

Apologies:

Hon Steve Maharey – Minister of Education
Hon Harry Duynhoven – Minister of Transport Safety
Hon Clayton Cosgrove – Associate Minister of Justice
Hon Ruth Dyson – Associate Minister of Social Development
Hon Lianne Dalziel – Minister of Woman's Affairs

In Attendance:

Dr Chris Wilkins – Centre for Social and Health Research and Evaluation (SHORE), Massey University

Officials Present:

Ashley Bloomfield – Health
Kellee Koia – Health
Megan Larken – Health

Arawhetu Peretini – Health

Mike Webb – Police

Dave Negri – Customs

Alison Stephens – Justice

Patrick McCabe – Justice

Sheridan Smith – Justice
Wendy Moore – ALAC
Ian Macdonald – Education

Ross Judge – MSD
Monique Leerschool – MYD
Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim Anderton
Arthur Grooby – Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Rob Beaglehole – Office of Hon Damien O'Connor
Nathan Clark – Office of Hon Clayton Cosgrove
Michelle Casey – Office of Hon Lianne Dalziel
Barry Ebert – Office of Hon Clayton Cosgrove

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting on 14 June 2005 were agreed as a true and accurate record and authorisation was given for the minutes to be placed on the NDP website.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 14 JUNE 2005 MEETING

3.1 *Minute Item 8* Drug Endangered Children

Officials advised that they were in the process of completing the paper. As members were keen to see the report on this issue, there was a discussion whether to wait for the next MCDP meeting or view the paper out-of-session.

Agreed:

That the paper exploring the scope for enhancing New Zealand legislation to deter the exposure of children in drug-related risk situations would be sent to MCDP Ministers out-of-session.

3.2 *Minute Item 9* Drug-Related Paraphernalia

Ministry of Health, Police and Customs Service have jointly prepared a request for legal advice on proposals for improving the workability of the Misuse of Drugs (Prohibition of Cannabis Utensils and Methamphetamine Utensils) Notice 2003. This request was sent to Health Legal for an opinion, however this has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Agreed:

That Police would seek advice from the Crown Law Office directly regarding the options for improving the workability of the current Notice, with a follow-up report to be provided to Ministers at the next meeting.

3.3 *Minute Item 10* Illicit Drugs in Prisons

Hon Damien O'Connor advised members on the updated Illicit Drugs in Prisons paper and that as the new Corrections Minister was gaining an understanding of the issue of illicit drugs in prisons. Members discussed the fact that prisoners are taken off Methadone when they entered prison.

Agreed:

That a further paper on Illicit Drugs in Prisons would be provided by Corrections at the next meeting that would include information on:

- **The level of illicit drug use in prisons**
- **The types of drugs that are used**
- **What treatment services are available to inmates**

- **What Corrections' policies for harm minimisation are, and possible areas for new or revised policy.**

4. ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

Hon Damien O'Connor gave an overview of a report that proposes an inter-agency led review of the regulatory framework for advertising. Members discussed which Minister will lead the review, reporting requirements.

Agreed:

- 1. That there would be an inter-agency officials review of the regulatory framework for alcohol advertising as outlined in the agenda paper.**
- 2. That Hon Damien O'Connor would be the lead Minister**
- 3. That the review steering group would produce an interim report and a final report to Minister O'Connor and MCDP, as well as a progress report at each quarterly MCDP meeting.**

5. ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS – MONITORING REPORT

Justice officials provided members with an explanation of the Action Plan and that it had originally started with 30 projects but with projects being completed, it was now reduced to 10. Members were also advised that a new action plan would be prepared once the updated National Drug Policy (NDP) is launched. The draft revised NDP had just been signed off by the Cabinet Business Committee on Monday 12 December 2005 and will now go to external stakeholders for consultation.

6. IACD BRIEFING FOR MCDP MEMBERS

The Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs (IACD) had prepared a briefing for members, which included:

- New Zealand Framework (MCDP, IACD and EACD)
- The National Drug Policy
- Achievements and Successes
- Current Issues
- Work Programme

Members discussed the harms of tobacco and alcohol in New Zealand in terms of mortality, morbidity and violence (in the case of alcohol). ALAC also briefly updated members on the progress of the Culture Change Programme and offered to give a presentation at the next meeting.

7. PRESENTATION ON DRUG TRENDS

Dr Chris Wilkins from the Centre of for Social and Health Research and Evaluation (SHORE), Massey University gave a presentation to members on the key findings of the 2005 study of the Illicit Drug Monitoring System

(IDMS), which was publicly released on 30 November 2005. The aim of the IDMS is to provide timely information on trends in illicit drug use and drug-related harm. The 2005 study offers detailed findings on three main drug types: cannabis, methamphetamine and hallucinogens (LSD and Ecstasy).

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be in March 2006 and arranged by Minister Anderton's office, in consultation with other Ministers.