

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING

*Tuesday 15 February 2005, 7:30pm – 8:26pm
Beehive Room 5.5, Parliament Buildings Wellington*

MINUTES

1) Welcome and Apologies

Ministers Present:

Hon Jim Anderton (Chair) – Associate
Minister of Health
Hon George Hawkins – Minister for
Police
Hon Rick Barker – Minister for
Customs
Associate Minister for Justice
Hon Harry Duynhoven – Minister for
Transport Safety
Hon Steve Maharey – Minister for
Youth Affairs

Apologies:

Hon Benson-Pope – Associate
Minister of Education
Hon Ruth Dyson – Associate Minister
of Health
Hon Paul Swain – Minister of
Corrections
Hon Phil Goff – Minister of Justice
Hon Damien O'Connor – Associate
Minister of Health

In Attendance:

Hon Lianne Dalziel – Member for Christchurch East

Officials Present:

Chris Laurenson – Health
Kellee Koia – Health
Megan Larken – Health
Bruce Atmore – Health
Mike Webb – Police
Mike Wotherspoon – Customs
Adrian Fryer – Justice
Patrick McCabe – Justice
Monique Leerschool – Ministry of
Youth Development
Wendy Moore – ALAC
Ruth Lawton – Education

Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim
Anderton
Chris Arcus - Education

2) Confirmation of minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting on 30 November 2004 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 30 November 2004 Meeting

Alcohol Advertising

Agreed that this item be kept on the agenda and invite Hon Damien O'Connor to discuss at the next meeting.

NDP Discretionary Grant Fund – Health officials advised members that the full amount of the fund had been allocated and that contracts were being negotiated with successful applicants. It was noted that the next round was in March and officials were to ensure that it was well publicised.

Illicit Drugs in Prisons –

Agreed that Hon Paul Swain be invited to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

4) Update on the Christchurch Youth Drug Pilot

Hon Rick Barker gave an update on the progress of the first 18 months of the Christchurch Youth Drug Pilot. He advised that it would be a further 18 months before firm conclusions could be made from the pilot.

Agreed that a report would be prepared by Justice officials, in conjunction with Health officials, on how the residential accommodation facility, Odyssey House, is working with the Youth Drug Court, to include details of the number of people who have passed through Odyssey House.

5) Drug Endangered Children

Members discussed whether a new law was needed, when there were existing processes in place.

Agreed that Police and CYFS officials would meet and provide a report for the next meeting on whether the current laws and practices were adequate or if there were gaps in the ability to deal with problems, which could be filled with new legislation.

6) Report on Licensing Trends

Hon Rick Barker summarised a report that highlighted what liquor licensing laws had achieved. The report was the first time this particular data had been collected and there were moves to provide a standard dataset on an annual basis. Members discussed the growth of “on licence” premises and some of the issues around the operation of 24 hour premises. Hon George Hawkins advised members that clubs in the Gold Coast changed the way they operated so that patrons could not enter a club after 3am even if that club was still serving patrons who had entered prior to that time.

Agreed that Justice and Police provide a report to the Chair prior to the next meeting on the implications of the data on liquor licensing trends and

policy options in addition to the paper on alcohol enforcement issues agreed at the August MCDP;

Agreed that Judge Unwin, from the Liquor Licensing Authority, be invited to attend a subsequent meeting of the MCDP to provide his insights on the issue.

7) Action Plan on Alcohol and Illicit Drugs – Monitoring Report

Projects 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 – all were on track.

Projects 8 & 9 – Minister Anderton directed that the Ministry of Health provide him with details on why this project has slipped.

Project 9 – Minister Anderton requested a report to him from Ministry of Health and Department of Corrections.

Project 10 – see discussion on agenda item 4 above.

Project 11 – ALAC was requested to check if WHO had produced a report on youth alcohol and consumption and related harm and report to Minister Anderton and Minister O'Connor's offices.

Project 12 – The Ministry of Health was directed to provide a briefing on the draft National Drug Policy for presentation to the Government Caucus before Cabinet was asked to agree to public consultation.

8) Alcohol Without Liquid (AWOL) Machines

The MCDP:

Noted that AWOL-type machines posed a minimal to non-existent risk to public health in New Zealand

IACD officials were directed to maintain a watching brief on the situation.

9) Other Business

Update on Alco-Link Project – Hon George Hawkins updated members on the progress of the Alco-Link project.

Agreed that Police would investigate and provide a report on SYFT Technologies Limited to the Chair prior to the next MCDP meeting.

10) Next Meeting

The meeting would be in June 2005 and would be arranged by Hon Jim Anderton's office in consultation with other Ministers.