

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY MEETING

*Tuesday 13 June 2006, 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 Annette King –
Minister of Police
Hon Nanaia Mahuta –
Minister of Customs;
Minister of Youth Affairs
Hon Clayton Cosgrove –
Associate Minister of Justice

Apologies:

Hon Steve Maharey –
Minister of Education
Hon Harry Duynhoven –
Minister of Transport Safety
Hon Ruth Dyson –
Associate Minister of Social
Development
Hon Damien O'Connor –
Associate Minister of Health

Officials Present:

Ashley Bloomfield – Health
Olivia Tuatoko – Health
Chris Laurenson – Health
Clare Van der Lem – Health
Kaylene Katene – Health
Monique Leerschool - MYD
Lesley Daly – Police
Alison Stephens – Justice
Dave Negri – Customs
Alan Smith - Customs

Ian MacDonald - Education
Anne Tuffin - Education
Ruth Richards – MSD
Helen Fielding – Transport
Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim
Anderton
Arthur Grooby – Office of Hon Nanaia
Mahuta
Selwyn Katene – Office of Hon Damien
O'Connor
Christine MacKenzie – Office of Hon
Clayton Cosgrove

Apologies:

Barry Hellberg – NZ Retailers Association

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting on 13 December 2005 were agreed as a true and accurate record and authorisation was given for the minutes to be placed on the NDP website.

No matters arose from previous minutes.

3. DRUG RELATED PARAPHERNALIA UPDATE

Hon Annette King and Hon Jim Anderton gave a joint overview of a report that proposes the amendment of the Misuse of Drugs (Prohibition of Cannabis Utensils and Methamphetamine Utensils) Notice 2003. As noted in the report, the current notice is inadequate.

Hon Anderton noted that his office will explore whether an amendment to section 22(1A) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 can be included in an Omnibus Bill., But will need to be tested out for cross-Party support to do this. If there is no agreement by all Parties then there will be no amendment.

Agreed:

- 1. Should there be no cross-party agreement to the proposed changes being included in an omnibus bill, they are to be included in the next Misuse of Drugs Amendment bill.**

4. NDP DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND

Members voiced concern over a lack of reports that had been sent in by some researchers, which did not meet requirements of contracts. Ministers were advised that if the contracts requirements for the proposals have not been met then outstanding payments will not be made and this funding can be used for the following round.

For this round, members were advised in a supplementary memo from the IACD Chair, that if all recommended proposals are funded, the total amount committed will be \$795,000, just short of the total \$805,000 available for the 2006/07 year. The IACD recommended that the highest priority for any uncommitted funds was research on alcohol use and community safety.

Noted:

- 1. If contracts for past proposals have not been met then outstanding payments will not be made. That funding will then be brought forward to the following year.**

Agreed:

- 1. That the following research applications be approved for funding:**
 - a. Tracking trends in population level drug use in NZ: Findings from national household surveying in 1998,2001,2003 and 2006 – by SHORE, Massey University for funding of \$34,342.88**

- b. Development of evidence-based information on legal party pills – by Alcohol and other Drug Research Collaboration, for funding of \$69,096.38
 - c. Extended Treatment Engagement: A pathway to better client outcome in the AOD treatment sector – by Clinical Research and Resource Centre, Waitemata District Health Board, for funding of \$58,382.80
 - d. Prospective Study of Acute Toxicity from Piperazine Based Party Pills – by Department of Emergency Medicine, Christchurch Hospital, for funding of \$31,950
 - e. Recreational Drug Using Behaviour and Legal Party Pills – by Victoria University of Wellington, School of Psychology, for funding of \$67,682.06
 - f. Treatment outcomes in Youth Dedicated therapeutic community programme – by National Addiction Centre, Christchurch School of Medicines and Health Sciences, for funding of \$130,000
 - g. The effects on driving performance of the legal party pill BZP, alone and in combination with alcohol – by Medical Research Institute of New Zealand, for funding of \$45,000
 - h. Develop a Matrix of student learning outcomes for drug education levels 1-8 – by Educating NZ, for funding of \$57,759.75
 - i. Selling legal party pills post Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act 2005: a study of manufacturer, distributor and retailer knowledge, attitudes and practices – by Alcohol and other Drug Research Collaboration, University of Auckland, for funding of \$150,000
2. That the following application be approved for funding, subject to satisfactory further discussions between the researchers and officials and the outcome of the Sale of Liquor (Youth Harm Reduction) Bill:
- a. Effects of increasing the minimum purchase age on school-aged youth – Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, for funding up to \$150,000 (if available)
3. To approve proposals being sought on research into alcohol use and community safety, with suitable proposal(s) to be funded from any uncommitted funding from the 2006/07 fund, subject to confirmation by MCDP Chair.

5. BZP RESEARCH RESULTS

Hon Anderton gave an overview of the research proposal “Legal party pill use in New Zealand: Prevalence of use, availability, health harms and ‘gateway effects’ of benzylpiperazine (BZP) and

trifluorophenylmethypiperazine (TFMPP)” conducted by the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), Massey University. This was the first of the research projects in progress and a further 3 projects would be reporting by October/November 2006.

Noted:

- 1. That EACD would make further recommendations on BZP to the Associate Minister of Health after the further 3 research papers have been received, and considered.**

6. NDP CONSULTATION UPDATE

Ministers considered an interim report on the consultation process that had occurred around the development of the second National Drug Policy. A number of the issues raised in feedback were discussed and it was noted that a full analysis of feedback would be prepared.

Agreed:

- 1. IACD would consider the consultation feedback and prepare recommendations on any necessary changes to Policy for MCDP endorsement in October 2006.**

7. ALCOHOL & ILLICIT DRUGS MONITORING REPORT

An update of the Alcohol & Illicit Drugs Monitoring Report was presented to the Ministerial Committee for noting.

8. NOS UPDATE

A paper was presented to the Ministers indicating that NOS was still being sold in Christchurch, which is a concern.

Agreed:

- 1. That further clarification of why Christchurch still had a problem with illegal sales of NOS would be provided to the Associate Minister of Health.**

9. METHAMPHETAMINE PLAN UPDATE

Hon Anderton commented that there had been a lot of work done in this area. Customs noted that, it was hard to know from seizure information the balance between domestic manufacture of the drug and the amount imported for distribution.

Noted:

- 1. MCDP had been updated on the Methamphetamine Action Plan to reflect recent developments in the government's and community response to methamphetamine related problems in New Zealand**
- 2. MCDP invited agencies of the Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs, to identify any potential to improve the workability of the current Action Plan, and report back to the MCDP once identified.**

10. VOLATILE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Barry Hellberg gave his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting, however would be available to meet with the MCDP at a subsequent meeting.

Agreed:

- 1. Barry Hellberg will be invited back to the next meeting by Hon Anderton's office.**

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Hon Nanaia Mahuta requested further details on the CAYAD evaluations.

Action:

- 1. That the Ministry of Health would provide information on the CAYAD projects and evaluations to Hon Mahuta.**

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be organised for September 2006 and arranged by Minister Anderton's office, in consultation with other Ministers.