

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING

*Tuesday 30 November 2004, 7:30pm – 9:10pm
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
Hon Harry Duynhoven – Minister for
Transport Safety

Apologies:

Hon George Hawkins – Police
Hon Ruth Dyson – Associate Minister
of Health
Hon Paul Swain – Minister of
Corrections
Hon Phil Goff – Minister of Justice

In Attendance:

Hon Lianne Dalziel – Member for Christchurch East

Officials present:

Ashley Bloomfield – Health

Chris Laurenson – Health

Kellee Koia – Health

Jo Burgi – Health

Arawhetu Peretini – Health

Alison Stephens – Justice

Mike Webb - Police

Mike MacAvoy – ALAC

Mike Wotherspoon - Customs

Richard Bargh - Corrections

Peter Carr – Ministry of Youth
Development

Sandra Kirby – ALAC

Heather Jones – Office of Hon Jim
Anderton

Simon Wallace – Office of Hon
Damien O'Connor

2) Confirmation of minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting on 31 August 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 31 August 2004 Meeting

Alcohol Advertising – Hon Damien O'Connor advised that he would seek a discussion of this issue at an MCDP meeting next year.

AWOL – Customs officials advised that the Minister of Customs, Hon Rick Barker had opted not to take a paper to Cabinet authorising a prohibition order pending the further information on the health effects.

Agreed that IACD prepare a paper for the first meeting next year outlining the manufacture, use, and commercial response to AWOL machines as well as the appropriate New Zealand response to a worst case scenario.

4) Discretionary Grant Fund

Hon Jim Anderton advised that there were eight applications for funding from the Discretionary Grant Fund, of which the IACD had recommended that:

- Three were fundable
- Three were potentially fundable
- Two were not fundable.

Two questions that need to be answered for future rounds of the fund were:

- How to publicise the fund?
- Whether agencies of the State were eligible to apply?

Agreed

- 1. That it was not appropriate for agencies of the State to apply to the Discretionary Grant Fund in future rounds.**
- 2. That the IACD would look at ways to publicise the Discretionary Grant Fund for the 2005/06 round.**

TE IKA WHENUA HAUORA MURUPARA COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE – Te Ika Whenua Hauora Murupara Inc

Funding would be for one FTE rather than the two that was sought in the proposal.

Agreed to fund to a total of \$115,000. This comprises funding of \$78,000 for services, \$20,000 for set up costs and a further \$17,000 for the evaluation provider for evaluation costs.

THE IMPACT OF CANNABIS EXPENDITURE ON HOUSEHOLDS IN NEW ZEALAND – Centre for Social Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), Massey University

There was a discussion around the importance of the project and how the information would be used. Police officials advised that a quantified figure would be useful for policy development and potentially also in other areas, for example when Police Drug Education Officers in schools talk to students about the opportunity costs of a family's money being spent on buying cannabis, rather than other things.

Agreed to fund to a total of \$5,300

A STUDY OF THE RISK FACTORS FOR LUNG CANCER – DOES MARIJUANA PLAY A ROLE IN YOUNG PEOPLE? – Medical Research Institute of New Zealand (MRINZ)

Officials were directed to obtain further information from the applicant to determine the adequacy of the sample size.

FAMILY / WHANAU INTERVENTION – Rubicon Youth Alcohol & Drug Support Services Charitable Trust

There was a perceived lack of community support.

Officials were directed to seek more information about Rubicon's history, and community service activities.

The applicant was to be invited to reapply for the next round of funding.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MYD DRUG-EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL-BASED DRUG EDUCATION – Ministry of Youth Development (MYD)

There was discussion concerning the importance of reasonable funding for implementing the drug education publications.

Agreed to fund to a total of \$30,000

THE PULMONARY EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA USE – Medical Research Institute of New Zealand (MRINZ)

IACD Officials were directed to obtain further information from this applicant of the significance of the research and how the findings would assist the National Drug Policy. In particular, officials were directed to determine the availability of international evidence.

PREVALENCE OF CO-EXISTING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND INDEPENDENTLY OCCURRING ANXIETY AND MOOD DISORDERS IN NEW ZEALAND SUBJECTS PRESENTING FOR TREATMENT AT ANXIETY DISORDERS CLINICS AND COMMUNITY ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICE CLINICS – The Phobic Trust of New Zealand Inc 1983

Officials were directed to obtain further information regarding this application including contacting the referee provided.

It was noted that Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet had spoken to the Phobic Trust. IACD officials were directed to ascertain from DPMC whether there was any new information relevant to the application.

TEN FOOT TALL & BULLET PROOF – Arts Promotion Trust

There was a discussion regarding the long-term effects of the programme. IACD officials were directed to contact the two referees listed in the application in order to clarify local support and a link to other local health promotion initiatives.

Summary:

Agreed that Ministers would further consider and decide applications out of session, once officials had completed the required investigations.

5) NDP Review

A paper was presented on The Progress and Issues Relating to the National Drug Policy 2005-2010. There was a discussion regarding the use of the concept of 'harm minimisation'.

1. ***Agreed that the concept of 'harm minimisation', should be retained in the National Drug Policy but that it should be made clear that the concept included both preventing and reducing harm.***
2. ***Agreed that in addition to health harms the National Drug Policy should have a stronger focus on social and economic harms from tobacco, alcohol and other drug use;***
3. ***Noted that a stronger focus on non-health harms may have implications for changing or expanding government data sets;***
4. ***Agreed that the National Drug Policy would outline broad policy directives that would be developed under separately; that the priority and focus of action plans would be determined by the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy and; that the action plans be developed and monitored by the appropriate IACD agency.***
5. ***Directed the National Drug Policy Steering Committee to investigate further mechanisms to incorporate NGO groups' feedback into the National Drug Policy 2005-2010 and the underlying action plans.***
6. ***Noted that implementation of additional mechanisms to incorporate NGO groups' feedback would likely have financial implications.***

6) Enforcement of Liquor Laws

The Minister of Police (Hon George Hawkins) and Associate Minister of Justice (Hon Rick Barker) were invited to lead a discussion on papers dealing with this issue at a subsequent meeting.

7) Drug Endangered Children

A paper on this subject was noted and Hon Jim Anderton directed that the item be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

8) Illicit Drugs in Prisons

Members noted a paper prepared by Correction officials on this issue.

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

9) ALAC Culture Change Programme

Hon Damien O'Connor presented an update on the Culture Change Programme. It was a long-term campaign that was aimed at changing the drinking culture and not just a one-off programme.

Hon Damien O'Connor then invited Dr Mike MacAvoy (CEO, ALAC) to outline in greater detail and involvement of other government departments involved in the campaign.

10) Monitoring Report

The Committee noted the updated Alcohol and other Drugs Action Plan monitoring report.

Justice officials were directed to provide an update on the Christchurch Youth Drug Pilot at the next meeting.

11) Other Business

Solvent Abuse Hearing – It was noted that the Coroner had completed his hearing on this issue and had reserved findings.

'P', Alcohol and Other Drugs Forums – Forums were held in Manukau, West Auckland and Morrinsville.

12) Next Meeting

The meeting would be in February 2005 and would be arranged by Hon Jim Anderton's office in consultation with other Ministers. Ministers who were absent would decide whether they wished to present their papers again.