

## INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

16 October 2008, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Police National Headquarters, Level 15, 180 Molesworth Street, Wellington

### MINUTES

#### 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

<b>Attendees - IACD Agencies</b>	
Barbara Phillips (Chair)	
Bronwen Hicks (Health)	Sarah Lynn (Justice)
Chris Laurenson (Health)	Graham Bussell (Justice)
Bruce Atmore (Health)	Kurt Vlietstra (Justice)
Peter Kennerley (Health)	Tanith Robb (Justice)
Susan Edwards (Health)	Grant Guillosson (MSD)
Olivia Tuatoko (Health)	Susan Wauchop (MYD)
Sara McFall (Health)	Stuart Mills (NDIB)
Karen Scott (ACC)	Laura Hayton (NDIB)
Rachel Petrus (ALAC)	Virginia Andersen (Police)
Andrew Hearn (ALAC)	Jonathan Lyall (Police)
Dave Negri (Customs)	Te Rina Moke (Te Puni Kokiri)
Kirsty Ruddlesden (Corrections)	Helen Fielding (Transport)
Mark Corrigan (Education)	Rachel McLaren (Transport)

<b>Apologies</b>	
Jenny Wolf (Health)	Laurie Gabites (LGNZ)
Stephanie Greene (ACC)	Sally Ma (MYD)
Anna Mills (CYF)	Geoffrey Dunn (Police)

<b>Guests</b>	
Les Maxwell (NDIB)	
Karen Evison (Health)	
Ashley Bloomfield (Health)	

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 10 JULY 2008**

Members agreed that the minutes from the 10 July 2008 IACD meeting be approved and placed on the website.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING FROM 10 JULY 2008 MEETING**

### **3.1 Minute item 4 Draft Agenda for 28 July 2008 Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy (MCDP) Meeting**

The agenda item *Inter-Agency Co-ordination on Drug Policy* was discussed at the 28 July MCDP meeting.

#### **3.1.1 Minute item 4.1 Ready-to-drink beverages, availability and price of alcohol in supermarkets, and excise tax-paper for MCDP consideration**

Health advised that the paper *Ready-to-drink beverages, availability and price of alcohol in supermarkets, and excise tax-paper* had been amended in relation to the IACD's concerns and the revised paper was discussed at the 28 July MCDP meeting. An update on Ready-To-Drink beverages is to be discussed at agenda item 10.

#### **3.1.2 Minute item 4.2.1 Precursor Assessment**

The Committee noted the NDIB's overview on the Precursor Assessment.

#### **3.1.3 Minute item 4.2.2 Update on Privacy Concerns in relation to "Project STOP"**

Health advised that a working group meeting had been convened after a paper had been put forward to the 28 July MCDP meeting.

#### **3.1.4 Minute item 4.3 Alcohol and Illegal Drug Monitoring Report**

Justice advised that they are to confirm with the Committee once they have prepared a covering memorandum (with recommendations) requesting clarification from MCDP on the process for updating the report. They are also to confirm once they have prepared a brief synopsis to be included in the introduction of the report.

#### **3.1.5 Minute item 4.4 National Drug Policy (NDP) Discretionary Grant Fund**

Health advised that the NDP Discretionary Grant Fund process was considered at the 4 August MCDP meeting.

### **3.2 Minute item 6 Methamphetamine Action Plan**

The Methamphetamine Action Plan is to be discussed at agenda item 9.

### **3.3 Minute item 7 Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is to be discussed at agenda item 6.

### **3.4 Minute item 8 Illicit Drug Monitoring System**

Police advised that the reports are available on the website and have been provided to relevant Ministers and the IACD. The Secretariat advised that Police have been provided with the IACD's email addresses.

### **3.5 Minute item 10 Update on Cannabis Strategic Assessment**

The presentation on the Cannabis Strategic Assessment is to be presented at agenda item 8.

## **4 UPDATE ON TOBACCO CONTROL IN NEW ZEALAND**

A presentation was made by Dr Ashley Bloomfield, *Chief Advisor Public Health, Ministry of Health*, on Tobacco Control in New Zealand.

The objective of the presentation was to familiarise IACD agencies with the main elements of New Zealand's tobacco control programme, outline recent progress in reducing smoking and identify future areas for action that will benefit from engagement by IACD agencies.

There was some discussion around priority groups mentioned in the accompanying paper, *Update on Tobacco Control in New Zealand*, particularly for mental health and prison inmates. Health advised that the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections have worked together to train prison nurses and fund free NRT for prisoners, who have very high smoking rates.

Currently mental health has not been identified as a priority area, however a letter is to be sent out to services as part of the process to achieve smoke free facilities. Many services are now smoke free and a large degree of importance is placed on ensuring mental health patients have access to cessation.

The Committee discussed national and international approaches to tobacco control. Health was queried on Asian smoking rates in New Zealand. Health advised that this is a large problem in Auckland and District Health Boards are attending to issues at a national level. Health advised that the international legal framework for tobacco control is the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and, New Zealand was the seventh country to ratify. There was discussion around illicit trade of tobacco and Health highlighted recent reported deaths in the UK from smuggled tobacco.

There was discussion around how far excise tax can be pursued as an effective intervention. This is currently included in New Zealand's comprehensive programme and accounts for about 70% of the cost of cigarettes.

Health was queried on the foreseeable future of tobacco in New Zealand. Health advised on New Zealand's comprehensive programme including regulatory and non-regulatory measures. For example there are health promotion activities to help 'denormalise' the presence and use of tobacco in communities, e.g. through smoke-free marae. There were also discussions around moving from 'denormalising' to 'de-legitimising'.

The Committee discussed the inclusion of tobacco control in the briefing to the MCDP and Dr Bloomfield agreed to provide future updates on progress on tobacco control issues.

**The Committee agreed that:**

**(a) tobacco control is to be included in the briefing to the MCDP and is to be linked to drug use.**

## **5. BRIEFING FOR THE INCOMING MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY**

In November 2005 the IACD prepared a briefing to the incoming MCDP. Health advised that due to the forthcoming election in November this year it could be useful to repeat this process. The Committee noted that there is currently no requirement for a briefing to be prepared and discussed what aspects of the IACD work programme could make up the basis for a briefing.

The Committee discussed the National Drug Policy and the possible use of the Illegal Drug Monitoring System Report to be used as a basis for a briefing. ALAC suggested acknowledging the interlocking use of legal and illegal drugs. Police emphasised the necessity to maintain continuity on the IACD work programme, and highlighted the importance of informing the incoming minister on the role and work programme of the IACD, especially with a possible change in ministerial committee. There was discussion concerning whom the briefing would be addressed and how it should be disseminated.

The Committee agreed to take a proactive approach and establish a working group to work on the briefing. It was agreed that the previous briefing gave substantive advice as to what the policies were and that it could be used as a primer for the current one. It was also agreed that the briefing would refer to the National Drug Policy structure, governance and key priorities, and include key facts and figures.

**The Committee agreed:**

- (a) a briefing to the incoming Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy be submitted at the next MCDP meeting**
- (b) to base this briefing on the previous briefing from 2005**

- (c) **that this briefing needs to maintain an awareness of the vehicles already in place and emphasise cross-agency collaboration**
- (d) **the briefing be structured as a guide to how the NDP fits together**
- (e) **that a working group be established between Health, MSD, Justice, ALAC, Police and Transport to prepare and circulate a draft briefing MCDP paper.**

## **6. COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

At the 10 July 2008 IACD meeting Health provided a paper *Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) High Level Meeting* and the Committee considered international arrangements on drug control. Health advised that it is now necessary to finalise agency participation in the delegation to the CND meeting to be held in March 2009 in Vienna.

Ministers from member states are to attend in order to participate in a general debate reviewing the progress achieved and difficulties encountered by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set out in the 1998 Political Declaration. In principle, there is approval that the New Zealand Minister is attending.

Members discussed the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) with regard to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (52). MFAT has prime responsibility for New Zealand's international activity, however, activities need to be prioritised and international drug control does not rate highly. The IACD agreed a letter would be written to the CEO of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### **The Committee agreed:**

- (a) **Customs, Police and Justice are to confirm attendance for the CND meeting to Ministry of Health as soon as possible**
- (b) **a letter be drafted for the Director-General of health to send to the CEO of Foreign Affairs and Trade advising of the high level meeting in 2009.**

## **7 NATIONAL ALCOHOL ACTION PLAN (NAAP)**

Health advised that the draft National Alcohol Action Plan (NAAP) had been approved for consultation by the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy (MCDP) in July 2008, where the MCDP's main concerns involved a preference for targeted rather than public consultation. The consultation document was released on 12 August and face-to-face meetings are currently being held with those who wish to inform their written submissions. The Ministry of Health, ALAC, New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Justice and ACC have each agreed to provide \$4,000 towards an independent analysis of submissions that will provide recommendations for the development of the final NAAP. The initial plan was to finalise the NAAP once submissions were finalised.

By 7 November agencies will need to have begun scoping actions for which they are a lead or co-lead agency so that internal priorities can be considered alongside the community priorities indicated in consultation feedback. The IACD working group is to consider how actions will be prioritised, funded and resourced within their agencies at the same time as consultation and analysis are in progress.

The Chair acknowledged current participation of ALAC and emphasised the necessity of attendance and commitment from other IACD agencies. There is a need to examine the action plan and to speculate how it will affect individual organisations.

The Chair highlighted the need for commitment for sign-off at chief executive level and how it can be resourced and the Committee were requested their views on the sign-off process. Police advised they currently have a Police Alcohol Action Plan and ACC advised that they are aligning their work programme with the NAAP. Health advised that they are liaising with other directorates.

There was also discussion around the resource/bidding process and commencement of discussions. Corrections advised that they are required to produce a National Drug Strategy every five years. Justice advised that this comes under business as usual and they require funding. Transport advised that alcohol is absorbed under their existing projects: road safety and maritime & rail. ALAC advised that alcohol is part of their core business, though there is a need to engage with the broader community in alcohol issues.

**The Committee noted:**

**(a) the progress on the consultation on the National Alcohol Action Plan.**

**The Committee agreed:**

**(a) agency working group meetings are to be scheduled.**

## **9 UPDATE ON OPTIONS FOR REDUCING ILLICIT DIVERSION OF EPHEDRINE AND PSEUDOEPHEDRINE FROM PHARMACIES**

The Chair updated the Committee on options for reducing illicit diversion of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from pharmacies. The Chair advised that Police, Health and Justice had formed a working group to consider Project STOP prior to the 28 July MCDP meeting in accordance with direction from the 10 July 2008 IACD meeting. The Chair also advised that the MCDP considered the IACD's recommendations concerning Project STOP and other options from the 28 July & 2 September MCDP meetings.

The Committee noted that the MCDP has requested further scoping on all of the options proposed by the working group: implementation of a pharmacy-to-

pharmacy tool; implementation of a pharmacy-to-Police tool; amending the status of pseudoephedrine to be available by prescription only; and also that current initiatives by pharmacists to address illicit diversion should continue to be supported and enhanced where possible. There was discussion around timeframes for the scoping paper and it was agreed that a paper be prepared by February/March 2009.

Members agreed that the precursor diversion reduction scoping work requires the existing agencies to remain the same, that is: Police, Justice and Health for the working group. Members considered liaising with Australia with regard to legislation concerning the implementation of Project STOP and the possibility of this fitting into the New Zealand situation. The Committee also considered renewing discussions with the three organisations representing pharmacies.

There was also discussion around the Methamphetamine Action Group (MAG), which is a working group of the IACD set up to consider and review the Methamphetamine Action Plan. Members discussed the possibility of it being reconvened, and Police commented that the original Methamphetamine Action Plan has remained in place since 2002. Members discussed the issue of precursor diversion reduction (Project STOP and/or other initiatives) and the MAG and agreed that these are both two different streams requiring separate working parties and approaches.

Members also agreed that the MAG work is specific and it is necessary to re-visit the Methamphetamine Action Plan. There was discussion around the possibility of a new group with new volunteers to commence working while the precursor issues are still under consideration. Customs suggested the possibility of having discussions with Australian officials who have recently performed investigations into other drugs.

***The Committee noted the MCDP's directions to the IACD:***

- (a) that current initiatives by pharmacists to address illicit diversion of precursors should continue to be supported and enhanced where possible***
- (b) Health is to take the lead on finalising privacy issues surrounding either a pharmacy-to-pharmacy or pharmacy-to-Police option, through consultation with the Privacy Commissioner***
- (c) Officials are to contact the Australian Project STOP administrators regarding the scoping performed for the implementation of Project STOP in Australia.***

**The Committee agreed:**

- (d) the Chair is to prepare a paper for Hon Anderton on the proposed timeframes for the scoping paper on the three options before Christmas**

- (e) a working group is to be established on the Methamphetamine Action Plan between Police, Customs and Health to report back at the next IACD meeting.

## 8 PRESENTATION ON CANNABIS STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

As stated in the previous IACD meeting of 10 July 2008, Les Maxwell from NDIB provided a presentation on the Cannabis Strategic Assessment.

The presentation was based on the key findings from the NDIB strategic assessment on cannabis which highlighted;

- Consistently high levels of hospital admissions and noteworthy regional variations for example provincial Police Districts were significantly higher (Eastern, Northland etc).
- Over representation of New Zealand Maori and young males in hospital admission data.
- The age at which cannabis is first used was decreasing (Household Survey data supported by IDMS and NZ ADAM).
- Increases in the potency of cannabis cultivated hydroponically which is consistent with international trend data (a brief outline of an ESR/NZP trial was provided). ESR has not undertaken forensic analysis of cannabis potency since the mid 1990s.
- During 2008 ESR and Police had initiated a project to undertake forensic analysis of cannabis cultivated hydroponically and within soil pots to validate the international findings and the NZP/ESR trials. Police are focusing on commercial operations with a domestic organised crime or transnational crime component.
- The significance of domestic organised crime involvement throughout the supply chain.

The NDIB also highlighted two potentially significant trend developments;

- The recent emergence of transnational criminal syndicates. The significance of transnational syndicates operating in the US, Canada, UK and AU was highlighted.
- The significant increases recorded in hydroponics cultivation in 2007.

Police indicated that a 'Cannabis Action Plan' had been prepared for the NZP Executive which set out a series of planned actions supporting the assessments suggested recommendations. These encompass supply and demand initiatives aimed at reducing the harm caused by cannabis in the community.

There was a brief discussion around the comparisons with licit substances. The Chair suggested comparing cannabis to alcohol and tobacco in a coordinated strategy. NZP commented that the Commissioner for Police Howard Broad, noted at an MCDP earlier this year that of the three substances of greatest concern to Police; alcohol methamphetamine and cannabis, they were most concerned about the level of harm caused by alcohol.

The Committee noted:

- (a) the NDIB Strategic Assessment '*New Cannabis' The Cornerstone of Illicit Drug Harm in New Zealand*
- (b) that Cannabis remains the most commonly used illicit drug in New Zealand
- (c) the recent significant trend developments in cannabis cultivation particularly the emergence of transnational criminal groups
- (d) that the public/media release of the NDIB Strategic Assessment to be undertaken in July 2008 has been reconsidered

The Committee agreed:

- (e) that the NDIB provides a formal briefing to IACD members on the strategic assessment findings and the recent significant trend developments.

## 10. UPDATE ON READY-TO-DRINK BEVERAGES

Health provided an update on the '*Ready-To-Drink Beverages - Follow Up Paper*', presented at the MCDP meeting on 2 September. Health advised that the MCDP agreed that the use of alcohol excise tax as a tool to reduce alcohol related harm needs be applied to all alcohol products and take into account the likely impact this will have on overall consumption patterns.

***The Committee noted the five recommendations from the MCDP requiring action from the IACD:***

- (a) Justice was directed to discuss with the Law Commission the need to investigate minimum pricing as part of the Review of the Regulatory Framework for the Sale and Supply of Liquor;***
- (b) Health are to clarify the processes and mandate of Food Standards Australia New Zealand in relation to placing a limit on the amount of caffeine allowed in RTDs and if necessary develop a submission to FSANZ to put this in place;***
- (c) the IACD are to continue to monitor international reports on the effectiveness of targeted RTD taxes;***
- (d) the IACD are to continue to monitor research into the alcohol related harms associated with energy-additive RTDs; and***

- (e) *the IACD are to continue to monitor international developments in minimum alcohol pricing policies, and develop policy principles and options on the pricing of alcohol, including minimum pricing.*

The Committee noted:

- (a) that Justice is to report back to the IACD on discussions with the Law Commission on the need to investigate minimum pricing
- (b) that Health is currently liaising with FSANZ regarding caffeine levels in RTDs
- (c) that monitoring international reports on the effectiveness of targeted RTD taxes and monitoring research into the alcohol related harms associated with energy-additive RTDs is to be lead by Health and ALAC
- (d) that Health, ALAC and Justice are to work together to determine the most appropriate method and accountability for implementing monitoring international developments in minimum alcohol pricing policies , developing policy principles and options on the pricing of alcohol, including minimum pricing

#### **11. UPDATE ON THE CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS**

Health presented a paper *'Update on the Child and Maternal Health Action Plan on Alcohol and Other Drugs'* to update the Committee on the developments on the Action Plan. The Action Plan will be a whole-of-government plan to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the effects of prenatal other drug use.

Health advised the Committee that Health has commissioned a review of literature entitled *'Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): Systematic Reviews of Prevention, Diagnosis and Management'*. The review ensures the actions in the Action Plan are evidence-informed, where possible and Health is due to receive a final report soon.

An Expert Advisory Group was established to be the advisory body to the IACD working group to ensure the action plan has depth, breadth and wise acceptability and feasibility. Membership of the Group includes people from the following areas: psychology, non-government organisations, Maori, Pacific, Public Health, research, primary healthcare, the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society, workforce development, paediatrics, pregnancy and prenatal services, midwifery, special education, and people with personal experience of supporting and managing families and individuals affected by FASD. A consultation workshop with the Expert Advisory Group is scheduled for 19 November. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a forum for members of the group to provide feedback on the approach and actions that experts would like to see in the forthcoming Action Plan. The IACD working group will analyse the final report summarising the feedback from the workshop and the analysis will inform the development of the draft Action Plan.

There was discussion around whether the FASD Action Plan has taken into account the impact of alcohol on the development of the adolescent brain. Health advised that the FASD Action Plan is specifically mother to infant, however this is not to dismiss the importance of research into the effects of alcohol on the growing adolescent brain.

**The Committee:**

- (a) noted that the consultation workshop is the first major step in the development of the Action Plan and aims to receive feedback from the Expert Advisory Group on the approach and actions that experts would like to see in the forthcoming Action Plan
- (b) endorsed the IACD Working Group's consultation workshop with the Expert Advisory Group in Wellington on 19 November 2008
- (c) will put forward nominations to Fiona Julian or Chris Laurenson of Health for attendance at the workshop
- (d) noted that a background paper is being developed by the IACD Working Group to guide the discussions during the workshop
- (e) noted that the future actions proposed in the background paper could have direct implications for the agencies represented on the IACD Working Group if included in the final Action Plan
- (f) agreed that the IACD Working Group approve the background paper for use during the consultation workshop on behalf of the wider IACD.

## **12. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **12.1 12<sup>th</sup> National Chemical Diversion Congress**

Police advised the Committee on the forthcoming National Chemical Diversion Congress. The Congress is being hosted by the New Zealand Police and is supported by organisations including the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, the Australian Attorney-General's Department, the New Zealand Customs Service and the New Zealand Ministry of Health. There will also be keynote speakers from a range of countries including China and the United States. Police advised that details on the congress can be found on the website, [www.ncdc08.org](http://www.ncdc08.org).

### **12.2 Update from Ministry of Transport**

Helen Fielding from the Ministry of Transport announced her resignation from the IACD.

## **13 NEXT MEETING**

The next IACD meeting is being tentatively planned for March 2009 and will be advised by the secretariat. Prior to this meeting Health will be in contact with IACD agencies concerning sign-off for the NAAP.