

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held 21 August 2000, 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees - IACD Agencies

Hannah Booth, Transport
Brendan Bruce, Justice
Liz Fellows, Consumer Affairs
Bill Frith, LTSA
Laurie Gabites, Police
Phillipa Gaines, HFA
Ruth Lawton, Education
Peter Leniston, Social Policy
Mike MacAvoy, ALAC
Sandra Meredith, Youth Affairs
Franc Mills, Corrections
Vivienne Morrell, Justice
Sandra Murray, Education
Jenny Schaaf, Pacific Island Affairs
George Smollett, Customs
Melanie Vickers, Transport
Michael Webb, ALAC
David Wilson, Courts

IACD Secretariat - Health

Matthew Allen
Brendon Baker
Catherine Conland
Paul Marriott-Lloyd
Andrew Zielinski

Apologies

Deborah Anderson, Treasury
Karleen Edwards, HFA
Grant Allan, Te Puni Kokiri
Jim Harper, Crime Prevention Unit
Catherine Coates, Police
Chris Laurenson, HFA
Fiona Coy, CYFS
Dave Negri, Customs

1. REPORTING FRAMEWORK - Health

Six-monthly IACD project reporting

Andrew Zielinski thanked the agencies that had returned their IACD reporting template, and indicated that there were only a couple of templates outstanding. The reports would be worked into a summary report for the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy (MCDP) Meeting on 12 September 2000.

Awaiting reports from:

- Customs and Police

Agreed that agencies finalise their reports by 25 August 2000.

National Drug Policy outcome indicator framework

Andrew Zielinski reported that had hoped to complete the first report in August this year but that competing priorities had prevented this. Health have been working with ALAC, WSNZ, and Education to refine indicators.

The Ministry of Health is still awaiting comment from:

- Police, Customs, LTSA
- Report planned for March 2001

2. MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG POLICY (MCDP) MEETING

Discussion of papers for MCDP meeting of 12 September 2000 (7.30pm is the likely time of the meeting, only those agencies presenting papers are likely to be asked to attend). Subjects include:

- Review of drug education - effectiveness, options for evaluation, options for collaboration - **Education**.

Ruth Lawton reported that two papers were being prepared for the MCDP meeting. The first which focuses on education in schools has been completed while the other, which reviews the current programmes, is still being drafted.

- Alcohol advertising restrictions - **Health**.

Paul Marriott-Lloyd reported that a scoping paper was being prepared looking at alcohol advertising on television and other forms of media. The Alcohol Advisory Council will provide input into this paper.

- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, Interventions: including alcohol health warnings - **Health/ALAC**.

Paul Marriott-Lloyd reported that a briefing paper looking at existing and possible interventions to target FAS and FAE would be prepared in consultation with IACD agencies.

Liz Fellows from Consumer Affairs reported that a consumer information standard is being drafted.

- Harm Minimisation - **Health**.

Andrew Zielinski reported that a paper on harm minimisation framework was being prepared for the MCDP meeting. The paper would be a broad document outlining the key principles of harm minimisation

- Tobacco work programme - **Health**.

Matthew Allen gave the committee an update on the tobacco work programme paper.

3. THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL STRATEGY - Alcohol Advisory Council

Mike MacAvoy provided the committee with an update on the National Alcohol Strategy and distributed the next, and final, draft of the document. Mike would like agencies to sign off on the document in the next week.

An item on the National Alcohol Strategy is to be placed on the MCDP agenda. Mike agreed to provide an oral presentation to Ministers at this meeting.

Submission by the Alcohol and Public Health Research Unit

Matthew Allen presented a submission from the Alcohol and Public Health Research Unit (APHRU) which focused on carrying out pseudo patron surveys and asking if there would be any interest from IACD agencies in funding such a proposal.

The committee noted that Midcentral and Hutt Valley Health had undertaken similar surveys within their regions for significantly less money. No agencies within IACD had capacity for supporting the APHRU proposal.

Laurie Gabites (Police) stated that there were reports being received from Police from around the country with positive comment on the drinking behaviour of 18-19 year old in licensed establishments. The main concerns centred around drinking in public places.

4. REVIEW OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF CANNABIS - Health

Andrew Zielinski reported back to the committee on the review of the legal status of cannabis: terms of reference, the Youth Parliament Debate, general strategy.

He reminded agencies of the need for Ministers to comment on terms of reference for the proposed review.

Youth Parliament 28/29 August - Health will support Law and Order Select Committee "in-committee". Sandra Meredith (Youth Affairs) is co-ordinating the Select Committees.

Laurie Gabitis stated that there was a need for a clear definition of what "decriminalisation" meant, so that everyone was speaking the same language. Police are convening a workshop on issues around Cannabis.

5. NEEDLE AND SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME - Health

Brendon Baker presented the key recommendations of the Needle Exchange Programme's Consumer Survey and Returns Audit conducted in February 2000.

Brendon focused on the recommendation made in the report that the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 should be amended to remove section 13 (1)(aa). This section makes it illegal to possess a needle and syringe for the purposes of offences against the Misuse of Drugs Act. Although the Health (Needles and Syringes) Regulations 1998 provide a defence against a charge made under section 13 (1)(aa), the offence is still being used as a holding charge and to gain search warrants.

IACD agencies noted that alternative approaches to encourage the return of used needles and syringes could also be considered.

Agreed that Brendon Baker and Laurie Gabites meet to discuss the section 13 (1)(aa) proposal further.

Agreed that Brendon also investigate with the HFA, alternative approaches to improving the return of used needles and syringes.

6. CUSTOMS PROPOSALS TO AMEND MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT - Customs

George Smollett presented a Customs proposal to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 so that Customs officers could have powers to stop, detain and search during controlled deliveries. George outlined the problems that occur now having to have police officers available to perform these functions.

Vivienne Morrell noted that aspects of the proposal had already been agreed on, but that Customs, Police and Justice had not agreed on all the proposals.

Agreed that Customs, Police and Justice would meet to discuss the proposals with a view to fully articulating their views on each of the proposals.

7. NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION (NGO) PARTICIPATION ON THE IACD - Health

Matthew Allen advised that approaches have been made by Hon Ruth Dyson, and Hon Lianne Dalziel to Hon Annette King, Minister of Health, for NGO

participation on the IACD, as a means to boost community involvement in National Drug Policy action plans.

There were a number of issues raised in discussion relating to this item:

- some IACD agenda items are confidential (eg budget secret) and accordingly IACD would have to have open and closed sessions
- the IACD is valuable as a forum for the free and frank exchange of views between IACD agencies
- there are a large number of NGOs in a variety of sectors - which one(s) would be chosen, and how?
- the current model that IACD works to allows for NGOs to be invited to attend and a more formalised framework could be adopted
- a further option that has been raised previously has been the establishment of an advisory committee to the IACD or the Minister of Health to act as a reference group
- IACD agencies agreed, on balance, that it was not appropriate to have direct NGO participation on IACD, assess other options

It was **agreed** that a paper be prepared for MCDP on options for improving NGO and community groups' participation in National Drug Policy initiatives.

8. ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT - Health/Corrections

Andrew Zielinski and Ian Clarke (Health) gave the committee an update on Judge Walker's offender treatment proposal.

A pilot project is to be undertaken in the Youth Court in Christchurch using a coordinated approach, a drug clinician at Court to assess offenders, arrange treatment programmes, continuing Judicial review of progress on a regular basis, and use of bail conditions. It needs ready availability of treatment programmes to work. It may require a youth treatment residential facility in the South Island.

At a meeting on 7 August attended by Judge Walker, Health, Corrections and Courts it was agreed that Barbara Arnold would facilitate the proposal under the Medium Term Child and Youth Strategy MoSP.

David Wilson (Courts) raised the issue of the unavailability of medical detoxification services in Hamilton. Mike MacAvoy suggested that the Alcohol Helpline would be able to provide information on all detox services in the country and he would be surprised if Hamilton didn't have one.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Strategy - Health Funding Authority

Phillipa Gaines gave an update on progress with the national alcohol strategy. It is currently still at a draft stage. The document is a blueprint for alcohol and drug service purchasing, with a focus on workforce development. The next draft is expected to be circulated by 15 September. Public consultation will

occur in October with the final document expected to be ready in November 2000.

9. COLLABORATION - Health

There was a discussion around the potential for collaboration between treatment providers and law enforcement agencies to identify trends in drug use and risks associated with these drugs. This would have to be done in a manner that protected anonymity.

Customs stated that most of their intelligence comes from informants.

Action arising: Health to raise this issue directly with NDIB, HFA, Customs and Police.

10. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUGS, MELBOURNE 2001 - Alcohol Advisory Council

Mike MacAvoy reported that the next International Conference on Drugs will be held in Melbourne in April 2001. This conference was held three years ago and was considered a great success. Next year the Alcohol Advisory Council will fund an alcohol-related stream.

The Alcohol Advisory Council will also consider sponsoring young New Zealanders to the conference. A call for abstracts and papers will be circulated in the next few weeks.

11. CODE OF PRACTICE REGARDING ALCOHOLIC SODAS - ALAC

Mike MacAvoy distributed copies of the National Guidelines on the Naming, Packaging and Merchandising of Alcoholic Beverages. These Guidelines were published in July 2000. Copies will be provided to MCDP Ministers.

12. YOUTH WEBSITE - Health, ALAC, Education, Youth Affairs

Mike MacAvoy updated the committee on the website development. The object of the website is to create one entry point for young people who want information on drugs and alcohol and a range of other health issues.

The State Services Commission has been approached and is supportive of the initiative. A paper will be prepared for MCDP.

13. FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES - Health

Matthew Allen outlined the Closing the Gaps work and funding programme. He gave an overview of the funding criteria set out in Cabinet Office Memorandum CO (00)7 and signalled the short timeframe available to put funding bids in.

14. ITEMS FOR BRIEF UPDATE

- Proposed Smokefree Legislation - **Health**.

Matthew Allen gave a brief update on the proposed Supplementary Order Paper.

- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control - **Health**.

Matthew Allen explained the process for negotiation of this first WHO international convention.

- Establishment of Statutory Drug Classification Committee under Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act - **Health**.

Paul Marriot-Lloyd outlined the need to establish this committee as soon as the Bill is passed.

- Pacific Islands Closing the Gaps paper - **Health**.

Andrew Zielinski reported that work drafting a paper on therapeutic programmes to reduce drug, alcohol and gambling addiction amongst Pacific People (due 30 November) will commence in September. Andrew will be responsible for this paper. Input will be required from HFA, ALAC, PI Affairs, and sector organisations. Any material will be gratefully received.

- Hemp cultivation trials - **Health**.

The moratorium on hemp cultivation trials has been lifted by the Minister of Health. A meeting of industry representatives has been held including the Hemp Industries Association and Federated Farmers, to devise a regulatory framework. Health, Police, MAF, Customs, TPK involved.

- Commission of Narcotic Drugs and Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs - **Health**.

Paul Marriott Lloyd discussed New Zealand's attendance at the CND and IGCD meeting and highlighted the opportunities and synergies to be gained from these fora.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

- Data on school suspensions - **Education**.

The Ministry of Education is to release data on suspensions which indicate that 31% of all school suspensions are due to drug-related incidents. This rates these incidents as the largest reason for suspension in New Zealand. These incidents include tobacco and alcohol-related suspensions.

The Committee asked the Ministry of Education if it was possible to make the suspension form that principals fill out more specific in terms of which drug the pupil was suspended for. For example:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Cannabis
- Other drugs

Meeting closed at 3.45pm.