

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

**Minutes of the meeting held 24 June 2003, 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

## **1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

### **Attendees - IACD Agencies**

George Smollet, Customs  
Abba Fidow, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs  
Wendy More, ALAC  
Margaret Geddes, ALAC  
Monique Leerschool, Youth Affairs  
Michael Webb, Police  
Alison Stephens, Justice  
Melanie Brown, Justice  
Richard Living, Courts

### **IACD Secretariat / Health (NDP Team)**

Graeme Gillespie (Chair)  
Chris Laurenson  
Megan O'Brien  
Matthew Andrews

### **Apologies**

Mike McAvoy, ALAC  
Terry Huriwai, Health  
Dave Negri, Customs  
Ruth Lawton, Ministry of Education  
Tony Coyle, Corrections  
Turei Reedy, Corrections  
Sandra Meredith, Youth Affairs  
Sally Liggins, Health

## **1. Matters Arising (1.05 pm – 1.15 pm)**

Actions from the last meeting held on 4 February 2003 were discussed and assessed.

Under item 2 of the Minutes from the last meeting, Customs clarified that the reference to 'Transnational Financial Authorities' referred to in the meeting of 16 August was an error and should have been a reference to the designation of a contact point under article 17(7) of the 1988 Drug Convention.

Under item 3 of the Minutes from the last meeting, Justice noted that the MCDP meeting of 21 May 2003 required a revised monitoring report for the

Action Plan of Alcohol and Illicit Drugs prior to the next meeting. It was noted that the new budget initiatives would be presented to MCDP before being included in the Action Plan.

## **2. Involvement of other Stakeholders in MCDP Meetings (1.15 pm – 1.25 pm)**

It was noted that there were a number of non-governmental agencies which were hoping to meet with joint Ministers. In addition, the Alcohol Advertising Review Committee was also to meet with MCDP. As this was a departure from normal MCDP protocols issues surrounding this were discussed.

**Agreed that Ministers may invite whomever they wish to these meetings, but that, as roughly equivalent to a topic-specific Cabinet Committee, the meetings should not be 'open' to allcomers.**

## **3. Action Plan Update (1.25 am – 1.55 am)**

Justice updated the committee on the progress of the Action Plan. There was discussion about the potential duplication of effort created by the regular monitoring report for the action plan and the six monthly report on progress towards the National Drug Policy (NDP) as provided for in the NDP. This will be an issue to be considered as part of the review of the NDP.

**Agreed that the six-monthly update for Ministers will continue.**

## **4. Future of/Review of NDP (1.55 pm – 2.10 pm)**

Health raised three possible options for the future/review of the NDP:

- 'status quo' – just change the dates
- dispense with the NDP
- conduct a full, independently-conducted review of the NDP.

All agencies were in favour of a comprehensive review. Health advised that they had put up an internal proposal for funding to complete a full review. The result of this was not known. There was discussion about the possibility of some degree of cost-sharing by different agencies, and input into a steering committee that would help to develop the review's Terms of Reference, and to help overview the work of the independent reviewers.

**It was agreed that, subject to funding, a full review should be completed.**

**It was agreed each agency would seek possible funding for such a review, and would forward expressions of interest to Health on whether they wished to be part of a formal steering group to oversee the review.**

## **5. Report Back from CND Meeting**

This item on the agenda was cancelled due to Bob Boyd being unable to attend. A paper will be circulated out-of-session to IACD members on the CND meeting.

## **6. Community Action Initiatives (2.10 pm – 2.45 pm)**

Health updated the IACD on the planning of the new Community Action Plans on illicit drugs.

## **7. Extension of Police's Public Awareness Campaign on Drug-Assisted Sexual Assault (2.45 pm – 3.00 pm)**

Police presented videos of its recent public awareness campaign, *Watch Yourself – Watch Your Friends*, on drug-assisted sexual assault.

## **8. CDRP-Funded Research on ATS (3.00 pm – 3.05 pm)**

Police advised the committee of progress in their Cross-Departmental Research Pool funding project on research into the impact of amphetamine-type substances. The project is being undertaken by SHORE and is expected to be completed in mid-February 2004. The Steering Group is to meet shortly to provide cross-government input.

## **9. Agency Plans for Alcohol and other Drug-Related CDRP Bids for 2003/04 (3.05 pm – 3.10 pm)**

Police advised of its intention to submit a CDRP bid for a multi-study research project on drinking and drugged driver control and highlighted the 30 July cut-off for this funding should any other agency be planning to submit bids.

## **10. Scoping Work on Further Projects to Gather Better Drug-Related Intelligence (3.10pm – 3.20pm)**

Police advised of three current initiatives to gather better drug-related intelligence. Projects underway include:

- preliminary work on development of a methodology for a formal illicit drug monitoring system (IDMS) which will provide early warning of emerging drug threats
- possible addition of New Zealand sites to the Drug Use Monitoring Australia (DUMA) programme. A scoping exercise has begun which will look at the best model for such a programme, which drugs should be

tested for, features of the programme and the frequency of survey cycles

- intelligence on alcohol related behaviour in distinct geographical locations. Police is seeking to fund an oversampling of the Ministry of Health's Health Behaviours Survey module on alcohol in two Police Districts (Southern and Bay of Plenty) in order for decisions to be made about optimal policing strategies.

### **11. Joint Police-ACC Project to Gather Enhanced Alcohol-Related Intelligence on a National Basis (3.20 pm – 3.30 pm)**

This project builds on the current Last Drink Survey (LDS) programme. Police officers will be required to record details of alcohol consumption, level of intoxication, and where and when the last drink was consumed for all charge sheets and Traffic Offence Notices. This will be done on a nationally consistent basis and will be analysed to support the development of alcohol-related policy. The project will be delivered through an external contractor and bids have been invited from across Australasia. Tenders close on 1 August, and national roll-out of the project is expected by 1 December.

### **12. Importations of Piperazine Substances (3.30 pm – 3.45 pm)**

Customs tabled a paper on piperazines, the main ingredient of New Zealand-manufactured dietary supplements. Customs had noticed an increase in importations of these substances and will be requesting EACD comment on the need to control them. Customs asked other agencies to provide them with any information they had about the substances.

### **13. General Business (3.45 pm – 3.55 pm)**

**Cannabis Inquiry** – Health updated the Committee as to the current status of the cannabis inquiry. The Health Select Committee is in the final stages of their report. Health and Justice will jointly prepare the government response.

**UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** – Police asked whether Health or any other agency was preparing to issue a media release to mark UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June. Police also noted that, unlike in previous years, there did not appear to have been a 'Treatment Works' week packaged around this highlight on the UN's calendar.

**NDP Website** – Police asked the IACD Secretariat to pass on its congratulations to the NDP team at Health for the improvements that have recently been made to the NDP website (<http://www.ndp.govt.nz>).

**Proposed Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill** – Health noted Police interest in receiving a draft Cabinet paper as soon as possible, in order to remain on-

track for the priority accorded to the proposed Bill in the government's 2003 Legislation Programme. Health advised that a draft of the Cabinet paper was expected to be available for distribution to other agencies in August.

**EACD Outcomes** – Health advised that, at the latest EACD meeting, pseudoephedrine was recommended for a classification of Class C3. This classification will have no effect in terms of availability as a pharmacy only medicine. There was no change recommended in the classification of LSD. The committee will reconsider MDMA when further information is provided. The next EACD meeting will be held before the end of 2003.

#### **14. Next Meeting (3.55pm – 4.00pm)**

Police emphasised the value which it attaches to regular meetings as a way of ensuring that drug-related action across the government sector was well co-ordinated. Police also recalled the past practice of ensuring that papers for consideration at IACD were distributed ahead of time and sought a commitment from other agencies to try and send out papers in advance (where possible). There was general discussion about the optimal timing for IACD meetings, and agreement that there should be an effort made to have quarterly IACD meetings, and that the dates of meetings be scheduled well in advance to ensure maximum attendance by relevant agencies.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 September 2003.