

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

**Minutes of the meeting held 27 October 1999, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm**

## **LIST OF ATTENDEES**

Dr Lynne Lane, Ministry of Health  
Mr Tony Walzl, Ministry of Health (contractor)  
Judge John Walker, Nelson District Court (from 11.30am)  
Mr Kerry Harvey, Ministry of Education  
Mr Grant Allan, Te Puni Kokiri  
Ms Catherine Coates, Police  
Mr Laurie Gabites, Police  
Mr George Smollet, New Zealand Customs Service  
Mr Dave Negri, New Zealand Customs Service  
Mr Brendan Bruce, Ministry of Justice  
Mr Karl Le Quesne, Department of Corrections  
Dr Mike MacAvoy, Alcohol Advisory Council  
Ms Suzanne Jones, Alcohol Advisory Council  
Ms Kate Cosgriff, Health Funding Authority  
Mr Jim Harper, Crime Prevention Unit  
Ms Lisa Johnson, Ministry of Transport  
Mr Bill Frith, Land Transport Safety Authority

## **Secretariat**

Mr Matthew Allen, Ministry of Health, (acting Chair)  
Mr Paul Marriott- Lloyd, Ministry of Health  
Mr Andrew Zielinski, Ministry of Health

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION ARISING**

### **Agenda item 1 - Introductions**

- Matthew Allen sought the IACD's agreement for him to act as interim Chair (as Gillian Durham had left the Ministry of Health) which was supported. Ron Patterson, the newly appointed Deputy Director-General, Safety & Regulation Branch was likely to Chair future meetings. Dr Lynne Lane introduced herself as the newly appointed Director of Public Health.
- The Chair welcomed members to the forth Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs meeting, and each member introduced themselves.

### **Agenda item 2 - Updates from agencies on current projects**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Controlled Drug Prescription</b>	Health	Progressing well. Initial concern that project might

## **Intelligence**

### **Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill (No. 4)**

Health

be seen as "doctor-bashing" but a collaborative approach has developed.

Bill referred to Health Select Committee. Provides for expeditious scheduling of controlled drugs, presumption of supply for "Ecstasy", defence for travellers entering or leaving NZ with prescribed controlled drugs, and ability to impose conditions on medical practitioners prescribing controlled drugs to treat dependence. Need to consider establishment of scheduling committee (ESR, Police, Justice, Customs, Health) to provide advice to Minister once Bill passed.

### **Development of Guidelines for Safe Dance Parties**

Health

With Minister of Health for consideration. Harm minimisation focus. Planned to be released before the millennium.

### **Drug Statistics Publication**

Health

Progressing well. Currently awaiting data from Police. Document will provide all drug statistics in one publication. To include statistics on mortality/morbidity rates, alcohol availability, moderation advertising and, treatment. Current plan is to review every two years, but could be placed on website.

### **Enhanced Border Interdiction Techniques**

Customs

Ongoing. Looking to progress legislative amendments re: controlled deliveries and internal concealment

detentions. A review of drug dog deployment is underway including a proposal to train dogs exclusively for powder drugs. A detention suite at Auckland Airport has been completed and a Judge will inspect it. A new shipping code for DXM has been introduced. Final approval has been given for purchase of x-ray and detection equipment able to detect minute particles of drugs, principally for the Auckland mail centre - portable devices will be available in Wellington and Christchurch. Information is being gathered for a proposal regarding a "lookout" programme for freight handlers, couriers etc. - this training programme has been very successful in the past.

**Youth Web Site**

ALAC  
Health

Work continuing. Widely used medium by youth. Sites have proved very effective in Australia and Canada.

**Development of National Evidence Based Guidelines on Drug Education**

Education

Draft guidelines have been circulated to providers and are to be edited and out early next year. A paper has been commissioned on evaluations of drug education which is near completion and will be circulated.

**Alcohol Awareness Campaign (amendments to Sale of Liquor Act)**

Education  
ALAC

A short, sharp campaign will commence in the week beginning 1/11/99. Material has been developed for print, radio

<p><b>Implementation of amendments to Sale of Liquor Act</b></p>	<p>Police</p>	<p>and ALAC web-site. Focuses on ID - how and where to get it and penalties. Provides information rather than focusing on health messages, although these are also in the background.</p> <p>Infringement notices are ready. Practice guidelines being developed regarding s.154A outlawing promotion of excessive consumption.</p>
<p><b>Treatment Services Gap Definition</b></p>	<p>HFA</p>	<p>Final report was produced in May. Received strong media interest when later released. Focus on correctional facilities and youth. Ministers indicated a willingness to consider funding of alcohol and drug treatment services as part of the year 2000 Budget process.</p>
<p><b>Reducing Drug Use by Offenders in Prison or on Community Based Sentences</b></p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>There are 12 drug free units nationally (environment where inmates agree not to use drugs). A treatment facility has been established at Arohata - two more to be established by the end of the year. New legislation allowing phone monitoring has been passed. A new methadone programme will maintain inmates on methadone while on remand. Integrated offender management - piloting new assessment systems - screening surveys for drug use. A psychiatric morbidity study was released</p>

<b>Review of Data and Research</b>	TPK Health	showing high rates of drug use. Completed in July and mailed out.
<b>Economic, Social and Community Development</b>	TPK Health	Work progressing well. Good level of support for the Maori Community Development Framework from NGOs.
<b>Funding for GAIN programmes on the East Coast</b>	Crime Prevention Unit	Drug & alcohol issues are a CPU business priority and there is a commitment to fund activities. Positive feedback received from Maori on the programmes. There is a proposal for a family coping skills programme.
<b>Development of NDP Indicators</b>	Health	Report to be finalised by 5/10/99 and circulated.
<b>Police Drug Strategy</b>	Police	Development continuing.
<b>Development of Resource for Parents</b>	Youth Affairs	Alcohol, Drugs and Young People - An Information Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Whanau resource completed. To be available to the public shortly through health services, drug education providers and community networks.
<b>Solvent Abuse Information for Retailers</b>	Youth Affairs	Fact sheet under development. Content being discussed with retailers.

**Action arising:**

Youth Web Site - ALAC will set-up a demonstration for agencies over the next month and will circulate evaluations of the successful Australian (Reachout) and Canadian sites.

**Action arising:**

Treatment Services Gap Definition - To be considered in next years budget bid process. Police to provide youth- related data to HFA.

**Agenda item 3 - Research and Monitoring**

- The IACD discussed whether it was appropriate for the Committee to endorse particular research proposals via a letter of support to a funding agency. It was agreed that the IACD could indicate that a proposal was consistent with NDP priorities, but not comment on the specific merits of a proposal. In addition, this was not to be taken as IACD agreement to fund any proposal.

**Action arising:**

IACD Secretariat to draft a standard letter for circulation.

**NDP Monitoring Plans (presentation by Tony Walzl)**

- Tony outlined his work to date on indicators and targets for the 36 NDP outcomes. Outcomes remain as stated in the NDP policy document, with monitoring data being required to match the outcome (best data source available).

**Action arising:**

Report will be finalised by 5/10/99 and circulated to agencies for feedback. All agencies to provide comment on the framework, specific indicators and data gaps.

**Agenda item 4 - NZ Drug Foundation Proposal on Response to Lowering of the Drinking Age**

- The NZDF proposal was considered but not supported by the IACD as it was seen to duplicate the role of the IACD and other initiatives already planned.

**Action arising:**

IACD Secretariat to draft briefing to the Minister of Health for circulation, indicating that the proposal would duplicate Committee structures and other work. Police to provide detail of their work in this area. Letter to be drafted for the Minister of Health to send to the NZ Drug Foundation.

**Agenda item 5 - Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services**

- Judge Walker, a Nelson District Court Judge with a Youth Court designation introduced himself. He expressed his concern for the promotion of better availability of treatment programmes for young persons. Judge Walker indicated that in his view 80% of persons appearing in the Youth and District Courts had drug and alcohol problems.
- Kate Cosgriff provided an outline of current HFA treatment service work including details of the treatment services gap definition. Additional resources for 1999/2000 include \$600k for additional methadone volumes and \$2.18m for youth treatment services. The HFA will develop an alcohol and drug action plan by July 2000. The possibility of a 1990/2000 Budget bid was also discussed although it was emphasised that there has been no funding commitment.

- Discussion occurred regarding the issue of assessment and that this must lead to referral to appropriate treatment services, which was problematic.

**Action arising:**

IACD Secretariat to contact Judge Walker regarding possible HFA and other agency attendance at the Judges working party meeting of 22 November 1999 to discuss treatment issues.

**Agenda item 6 - New work - New ideas**

**Presentation of relevant Australian drug work to IACD for consideration.**

- The IACD agreed it was beneficial to have knowledge of Australian initiatives.
- Police to attend the Australian Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinators Meeting. This was Australian focused, however, and there was a need to have NZ input.
- Health attend the Australian Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD). It was suggested Police also seek observer status through their officer in Canberra.

**Action arising:**

IACD Secretariat to circulate IGCD agendas. Police to advise the Secretariat if they are interested in being represented on IGCD, and if so, IACD Secretariat to seek feedback from IGCD Secretariat on the possibility that NZ Police could attend future IGCD meetings.

**Hepatitis C Strategy**

- focus on corrections issues and injecting drug use, but this was only a part of the HepC issue. It was noted that extra funding may be required for such an initiative.

**Six-monthly IACD reporting template**

- The IACD Secretariat has produced a draft reporting template (attached) to assist the Cabinet requirement for six-monthly IACD reporting. It is planned that reporting will occur in January and July.

**Action required:**

Agencies to consider draft template and feedback comment to IACD Secretariat

**Agenda item 7 - Other Business**

- It was noted that agencies may be approached for input into publications by organisations such as the Police Managers Guild or Police Association. These were Police service organisations and not part of NZ Police. Caution should be exercised.

- The IACD noted the results of the survey on Attitudes to Environmental Tobacco Smoke, circulated by the Ministry of Health.