

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held

30 November 1998, 11.00 am - 1.45 pm

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Dr Gillian Durham, Ministry of Health, (Chair)
Ms San Fitzgibbon, Ministry of Education
Ms Carol Stevenson, Te Puni Kokiri
Ms Catherine Coates, Police
Mr George Smollet, New Zealand Customs Service
Ms Vivienne Morrell, Ministry of Justice
Mr Bruce Asher, Department of Corrections
Mr Grant Strachan, Land Transport Safety Authority
Dr Mike MacAvoy, Alcohol Advisory Council
Mr Peter Carter, Health Funding Authority
Ms Maggie McGreggor, Health Funding Authority
Mr Jim Harper, Crime Prevention

For part of the meeting

Ms Cathy Scott, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Secretariat

Mr Matthew Allen, Ministry of Health
Ms Brigid Wilson, Ministry of Health
Mr Paul Marriott- Lloyd, Ministry of Health

Apologies

Ms Virginia Webb, Ministry of Transport

SUMMARY OF ACTION ARISING

Agenda item 1 - Introductions

- The Chair welcomed members to the second Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs meeting, and each member briefly introduced themselves.

Agenda item 2 - Update on IACD Work

- The interactions between alcohol and tobacco with other drugs in the IACD work programme were discussed. The Chair advised that the programmes to address the licit drugs, alcohol and tobacco, have been

co-ordinated with, and supported by, the illicit drug projects in the IACD work programmes.

- The nature of the work programme was discussed. Concerns were raised that the programme would not meet Ministers' expectations in that several reviews were proposed, rather than specific actions to target cannabis consumption in the Far North or the East Coast and to prevent the establishment of a hard drugs market in New Zealand.

Action arising:

Clarify in the work programme that reviews and gap analyses are part of the process which supports and contributes to the development of specific projects to target cannabis and hard drugs.

Agenda item 3 - Cannabis and Hard Drugs Work Programme

- Concerns were raised that definitions, and Ministers expectations, of the cannabis problem in the Far North and East Coast may not be consistent.

Action arising:

Provide a clear and explicit problem definition of cannabis use in Northland and the East Coast and ensure that the definition is consistent across IACD agencies.

- Questions were raised about projects which target controlled drugs being incorporated into the hard drugs work programme. However, it was explained that controlled prescription drugs, at present, are one of the main sources of illicit drugs available in New Zealand.

Action arising:

Provide a clear problem definition for inclusion in the work programme of hard drugs which makes it clear that controlled prescription drugs, at present, pose more of a problem to New Zealand.

- Concerns were raised about the layout of the work programme. The main concerns were the number of projects and that Ministers were being asked to approve ongoing projects. Further, cost, the relationship to Ministers' priority areas, the relationship to the consultation exercise, and the impact of the projects needed to be incorporated into each project.

Action arising:

Revise the layout of the work programme to take into account the five main areas of work, and dichotomise into cannabis and hard drugs and incorporate costings, impact and the relationships to the consultation and Ministers' priority areas into the two work programmes. All IACD agencies were asked to provide costings and revised timeframes by 3 December 1998. Ministers will be asked to approve the two work programmes in their entirety.

Each of the projects were discussed and amended where appropriate.

- The similarities between the Economic, Social and Community Development project and the Links with Strengthening Families Strategy were discussed. It was decided that the two projects be combined and that the activities by a number of other agencies working on economic and social development be incorporated in the project.

Action arising:

Merge the Economic, Social and Community Development project with the Strengthening Families project and ensure that all the programmes run by IACD agencies in the Far North and East Coast are incorporated in the final project. Programmes by the Hillary Commission, Safer Community Council and the WHO should also be incorporated into the project.

- It was agreed that the revised work programmes be circulated to all IACD members for review by Wednesday 9 December.

Actions arising:

IACD Secretariat to circulate revised work programmes.

IACD agencies to send comments on the revised work programme to the IACD Secretariat by 5:00 pm Thursday 10 December 1998.

Agenda item 4 - Legal Status of Cannabis

- Concerns were raised over the Review of the Legal Status of Cannabis project. The IACD was in agreement that the controversial nature of this project would detract from the rest of the work programme and that the timing for this project was not appropriate.

Action arising:

Withdraw the Review of the Legal Status of Cannabis project.

Agenda item 5 - MCDP Meeting

- Members were advised that the MCDP meeting was to be held on 16 December 1998 at 8:00 pm. The attendance of all IACD members at the MCDP meeting was requested.

Agenda item 5 - Noting Items

- The Treatment Services project developed by the Health Funding Authorities was tabled and included in the work programme.

Action arising:

Include the HFA project into the cannabis and hard drugs work programmes.

Agenda item 6 - Other Business

- The idea of a communication plan was put forward to support the work programmes. The members of the IACD agreed that a communication

plan be prepared for submission to the MCDP at the 16 December 1998 meeting.

Action arising:

Develop a communication strategy to support the cannabis and hard drugs work programmes.