

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held 5 March 1999

Attendees

Dr Gillian Durham, Health (Chair)
Kerry Harvey, Education
Peter Carter, Health Funding Authority
Sandra Meredith, Youth Affairs
Catherine Coates, Police
Brian O'Sullivan, Te Puni Kokiri
Bruce Asher, Corrections
Val Sim, Justice
Jim Harper, Crime Prevention Unit; DPMC
Dr Mike MacAvoy, ALAC
Virginia Webb, Transport
George Smollett, Customs

Matthew Allen
Paul Marriott Lloyd, IACD Secretariat
Brigid Wilson

1. Work Programme

Update from IACD Secretariat on the release of the work programme.

Commitment sought and gained from IACD agencies on the projects and project time frames.

ALAC's completed services directory was presented. Hard copies and CD ROM versions are available from ALAC.

Reiteration of the emphasis of action by the 31 May time frame requested by the Minister for most projects.

Agreement from IACD agencies that drafts of documents will be sent around IACD for comment prior to finalising. Secretariat will manage distribution of material. In addition, other agencies, including NGOs, provider organisations etc, should be involved in the development of projects wherever possible to help ensure success of work programme initiatives.

Actions arising:

- Education to advise if the drug education overview project includes alcohol and tobacco.
- Education to advise if the review of drug education guidelines is only for schools, or has a wider audience.

- Ministry of Health to seek to include National Drug Policy in the Funding Agreement with the HFA.
- All agencies to ensure that they involve IACD agencies and other Government and non-government agencies in the development and implementation of initiatives.

2. Release of the Work Programme

Work programme was released publicly by the Minister of Health on March 8.

IACD agencies agreed to proactive distribution of the work programme to interested agencies, and reactive distribution in response to requests.

Publicising the work programme via internal and external agency newsletters was discussed and agreed to. Opportunities for media statements concerning the work programme will be taken up by IACD agencies as appropriate.

Action arising:

- Secretariat will send copies of the work programme to all who made a submission on hard drugs and/or cannabis, and to those who attended meetings on cannabis.
- Secretariat will draft a newsletter article for IACD agencies to use in their own publications, by 29 March.

3. Six Monthly Reports to the MCDP

The MCDP requires (Cabinet Minute CAB (98) M 19/7 A(1) refers) IACD agencies to report six monthly to the IACD on progress on implementing the National Drug Policy.

The IACD agreed that the report currently due will take the form of an update to Ministers on expenditure on drug and alcohol programmes, encompassing supply reduction, demand reduction and problem limitation.

From August 1999, reports will take the form of detailed updates on progress from each agency on the project(s) it is responsible for. The reports will be co-ordinated by the IACD secretariat and will be presented to the MCDP every August and February.

Action arising:

- All IACD agencies and the HFA to provide an update on expenditure on tobacco, alcohol and illicit and other drugs using the attached template. To be provided to the Secretariat by 29 March 1999.

4. The National Drug Policy and other Intersectoral Initiatives

Discussion and agreement on the need to ensure that NDP initiatives are consistent with and supportive of other intersectoral programmes currently in

place, for example the Crime Prevention Strategy, Strengthening Families, and the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, etc.

Agencies undertook to update the IACD regularly on new and existing initiatives that have a relevance to the NDP work programme activities.

Meeting agreed to representation from Social Welfare for future meetings to ensure that that agency is informed on NDP developments and is able to link NDP to other relevant community programmes.

Action arising:

- IACD Secretariat to invite a representative from Social Welfare to attend future IACD meetings.

5. Additional Item: Ecstasy Reclassification and Misuse of Drugs Act Schedules

There are misunderstandings over the definition of Ecstasy (MDMA), evident in recent media comment. A more specific tariff definition of a pipe or 'bong' intended for use as a water pipe for smoking cannabis was identified as a need by Customs, to aid interception.

The Chair indicated that the Government intends to reclassify Ecstasy as a Class A drug.

The MCDP has indicated that it wants the Misuse of Drugs Act amended to enable rapid classification of emergent drugs which pose harm, but are not covered in the current schedules of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. "Flatliner" (or "DOB") was identified as a current example. Justice Department feedback was sought on this issue.

A Cabinet paper on the above issues will be developed by the end of April.

Actions arising:

- Justice, Police, Customs and Health to meet on March 11 to consider the implementation of the Ecstasy and drug paraphernalia projects.
- Ministry of Health to develop a Cabinet Paper on reclassification of Ecstasy and emergent drug classification by the end of April, in consultation with other IACD agencies.
- Justice to provide comment to the Ministry of Health on classifying or reclassifying drugs by Gazette notice, Order in Council or other means outside amendment of the principal Act.