

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

2 March 2006, 1:30am – 4:30pm
Ministry of Health, 133 Molesworth St

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Attendees - IACD Agencies	
Ashley Bloomfield (Chair)	Wendy Moore (ALAC)
Chris Laurenson (Health)	David Negri (Customs)
Bruce Atmore (Health)	Alby Rean (Police)
Sara Bennett (ALAC)	Ruth Richards (MSD)
Helen Feilding (Transport)	Kirsty Ruddlesden (Corrections)
Laurie Gabites (Local Government)	Philippa Shallard (Justice)
Terry Huriwai (Health)	Sheridan Smith (Justice)
Monique Leerschool (MYD)	Alison Stephens (Justice)
Megan Larken (Health)	Beth Watson (MSD)
Colin Lee (Health)	Kim Williams (NDIB)
Ian McDonald (Education)	

Apologies	
Ross Judge (MSD)	
Steve Hunt (TPK)	

2. Minutes of meeting of 18 May 2005

Agreed that the Minutes from the IACD meeting held on 18 May 2005:

1. Be approved subject to the following changes:
Item 13: The words "including an update on progress achieved under the complimentary Methamphetamine Action Plan," be deleted from agreement 1.
2. Be placed on the NDP website.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

Item 5 – In response to concern expressed about the respective roles of the IACD and *Opportunity for All New Zealanders*, it was agreed that the chairman would prepare a memorandum to the Health Chief Executive regarding the IACD and the work it does, by 26 May. It was unclear whether this had been done.

Item 10 – Feedback had been provided to the Ministry of Health in regard to Project 8 (Review of alcohol and drug treatment in the general population) and project 9 (Review of alcohol and other drug treatment in prisons). An update on progress would be included in the Monitoring Report update for the next MCDP meeting due to be held on 21 March 2006.

Item 11a – It was noted that the procedures for the 2005/06 round of the Discretionary Grants Fund had been carried out and that the Ministry of Health had negotiated contracts for service with the proposers of approved projects. The results of the projects would be disseminated to IACD members as they came to hand.

4. MCDP Meeting 13 December 2005

Members reviewed the minutes of the MCDP meeting that was held on 13 December 2005 and noted that all action items had been scheduled on the current IACD agenda for discussion.

5. Alcohol Advertising Review

The meeting was advised that MCDP had agreed to the scope and structure of the review. Minister O'Connor was to be the lead Minister. A Steering Group, reporting to Minister O'Connor, would be formed comprising representatives from Health, Justice, Youth Development, Culture and Heritage, the Broadcasting Standards Authority, Advertising Standards Authority, and ALAC. In addition, a decision had yet to be made by Minister O'Connor regarding other members that would be appointed to the steering committee.

Agreed:

That a paper would be prepared by Health officials to the next meeting of MCDP updating them on progress with the review.

6. Drug Endangered Children

A paper prepared by Justice officials indicated that current law provided Police with the means to charge persons for the manufacture and supply of controlled drugs whether or not they actually committed the offence or procured or counselled a child to do so. It was also pointed out in the paper that the Crimes Act enabled Police to prosecute parents where they had failed to provide their child with the "necessaries of life". Any person could be prosecuted for being cruel to a child, or for ill treating or neglecting a child. It was therefore suggested that creating an offence associated with controlled drugs where no harm had been caused would be a precedent and that there were many items and behaviours that were potentially more dangerous than the presence of controlled drugs near children.

Justice considered that a better option would be to provide for an aggravating factor to the offence of manufacturing a controlled drug – a move more consistent with

Police concerns – that would signal the wrongfulness of exposing children to the harms associated with manufacturing controlled drugs in the home.

Should Ministers wish to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act, Health in consultation with Justice and Police would need to more closely canvass the issues surrounding this proposal and review the experience of the UK and other overseas jurisdictions. It would also be necessary to build this into agency work programmes and would open up the possibility of inclusion of other amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act, such as import/export of equipment and controlled export of drugs.

Agreed:

1. that Agencies would provide feedback to Justice on their paper by 3 March 2006;

2. that Justice would revise the paper, taking account of agency feedback and send it to the Ministry of Health for inclusion in the MCDP papers by 14 March 2006.

7. Illicit Drugs in Prisons

A paper prepared by the Department of Corrections noted that a number of initiatives, programmes and services were in place to address the alcohol and drug-related needs of prisoners. The change in policy for the treatment of opioid dependent prisoners would be implemented as quickly as possible and would ensure that treatment met international best practice. Implementation of the screening, assessment and treatment of communicable diseases programme and the harm minimisation programme in prisons would be completed when funding for vaccines and laboratory testing was secured.

It was noted that current policy did not provide for initiating methadone treatment in prisons but that those inmates on methadone at the time of their incarceration would be maintained on the programme.

A question was raised as to whether treatment programmes were to be increased proportionately as the prison population expanded.

Agreed:

That Corrections would discuss aspects of the paper with Health officials and that the paper would be included on the agenda for the next MCDP meeting.

8. Strategic Planning Follow-up

The IACD discussed issues relating to the development of action plans under the proposed second National Drug Policy

Agreed:

That following the implementation of the new NDP, work on issues such as targets and indicators will be required for the development of Action Plans.

9. Items for Brief Update

9.a Second National Drug Policy

Health reported that consultation meetings on the NDP were due to commence at the end of March. Planning was nearing completion and members would be advised when details had been finalised. There would be 13 meetings held at 8 locations. It was hoped that representatives from member agencies would attend some or all of the scheduled meetings. The draft NDP had been approved for release for consultation. Edited documents would be made available at the meetings and also on the web site. Information about the meetings would be sent to those in the sector direct, as well as by notification via the A & D netlink and the NDP website. Written submissions would be called for and all submissions would be analysed before any revision of the policy was considered and put before the MCDP.

Discussion followed on the importance of the culture of binge drinking in New Zealand and the pervasive negative effects of alcohol on individuals and society. In terms of the extent of the problem, alcohol is large when compared to illicit drugs. The approach to the culture of drinking in NZ needs to be cross agency.

9.b Drug-related paraphernalia

Police advised that an opinion had been sought on the issue and will be forwarded to the Committee as soon as approval for the disclosure of the opinion has been received in accordance with Cabinet Directive CO(05)5.

This directive requires government agencies to gain the permission of the Solicitor-General before releasing Crown Law Office advice.

Police reported that further Crown Law Office advice on this matter was being sought before being considered at the next MCDP meeting.

9.c NDP Discretionary Fund

The grants for 2005/06 had been contracted and results were awaited.

Applications for the 2006/07 NDPDF were to be called for shortly. Once applications were received they would go through assessment by the IACD subgroup, which would then make recommendations to the full IACD, and then to the MCDP. Agencies were asked to consider any indicative priority areas for research projects and provision of services. It was suggested that IACD should review processes and linkages between the applications and NDP priorities following the 2006/07 funding round.

Agreed:

Health would send out a reminder to member agencies of the NDPDF criteria.

9.d Retailer Initiative

Local Government advised of an initiative being considered to address the issue of volatile substance abuse. This involved a model for the education of retail workers which had been trialled in Brisbane. Details of the initiative, which involved retailers of solvents in the Wellington area, would be discussed at the next meeting.

9.e Strengthening Drug Education in School Communities

Youth Development reported on feedback of drug education workshops held with school principals in 2005. Feedback from the workshops was very positive. Evaluation and feedback following the workshops and at one month post delivery had occurred. Principals were keen for further work in this area, either as specific drug education or integrated into the overall health package of the curriculum. There was also a need to engage with staff who would be involved in the delivery of the drug education material. Resource availability was to be followed up.

9.f UNCND Meeting 13-17 March 2006

Health was to attend the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting in Vienna. Police and Customs would not be attending.

9.g IGCD Meeting 23/24 February

Health provided an update on the recent meeting of the (Australian) Inter-Government Committee on Drugs meeting held in Adelaide on 23 and 24 February 2006.

10. General Business

10.a SOLA Amendment Bill

Health and Justice were providing on-going support for the Law and Order Select Committee's consideration of the Sale of Liquor (Youth Harm Reduction) Bill.

Justice was preparing option papers for their Minister regarding their discussion paper Review of Sale of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Issues and the submissions they had received on it. This was expected to be completed by the end of March 2006.

10.b Methamphetamine Action Plan

Health provided an update of the response to the recent 'March Against P'. Health and Hon Jim Anderton's office appreciated the assistance of agencies involved in pulling information together to address the concerns of the march participants. Health was coordinating an update of the Methamphetamine Action Plan and would contact agencies shortly for further information to assist in this process.