

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

*12 September 2006, 1:00pm – 4:30pm
Ministry of Health, Rooms 4.01 & 4.02, 1-3 The Terrace, Wellington*

MINUTES

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees - IACD Agencies	
Ashley Bloomfield (Chair)	Ian Macdonald (Education)
Chris Laurenson (Health)	Alison Stephens (Justice)
Bruce Atmore (Health)	Philippa Shallard (Justice)
Kaylene Katene (Health)	Sheridan Smith (Justice)
Olivia Tuatoko (Health)	Vanessa Schuster (PI Affairs)
Sara Bennett (ALAC)	Ross Judge (Social Development)
Megan Larken (ALAC)	Ruth Richards (Social Development)
Kirsty Ruddlesden (Corrections)	Helen Fielding (Transport)
Dave Negri (Customs)	Amy Russell (Youth Development)

Apologies	
Kim Williams (NDIB)	Monique Leerschool (Youth Development)
Chris Arcus (Education)	

In attendance for item 5

Dyfed Thomas, Adviser, Ministry of Health

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 1 JUNE 2006

Members approved the minutes from the previous IACD meeting held on 1 June 2006 and authorisation was given for the minutes to be placed on the NDP website.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 1 JUNE 2006

3.1 Minute Item 4 *NDP Discretionary Grant Fund*

Members reported that all actions agreed to at the 1 June 2006 meeting have been completed. An IACD subgroup comprising of Health, ALAC, and Justice discussed the proposal "Effects of increasing the minimum purchase age on school age youth" submitted by the Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, and it was decided not to fund this project. The researchers have been informed that their proposal has been unsuccessful.

3.2 Minute Item 6 *Illicit Drugs in Prisons*

IACD was advised that ALAC and Corrections are currently sharing information on treatment and early intervention.

3.3 Minute Item 7 *Drug-Related Paraphernalia*

Minister Anderton's Office have explored whether an amendment to section 22(1A) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 can be included in an Omnibus Bill. This would require cross party agreement, however Minister Anderton's Office has reported that complete cross party support has not been obtained for the proposed amendment. Minister Anderton's Office will confirm the status of the cross party agreement, and if support is not obtained then the proposed changes are to be included in the next Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill.

3.4 Minute Item 8.8 *National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Strategy*

ALAC reported that they are still in the process of organising a presentation to be given by the Aotearoa National Advisory Group (ANAG) to agencies regarding the FASD strategy.

Other Action points from the previous meeting minutes were on the agenda and would be discussed during the meeting.

4. SECOND NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

Health provided IACD with background information on the development of the second National Drug Policy (NDP). The IACD is to provide a draft second NDP to the MCDP for endorsement at its next meeting and final directions to the secretariat around structure and content were required.

The paper recommended that IACD:

- Note that the consultation process on the draft second NDP has been completed and that submissions have been analysed.
- Agree to a revised draft second National Drug Policy being placed before MCDP for endorsement.

The main concern expressed in the consultation is that the final Policy be strongly evidence-based. As a result of submissions received, some of the objectives in the previous draft of the Policy have been recast as actions under the strategy section and the remaining objectives are a more succinct overview.

Further ideas around the NDP draft document were discussed, such as developing Action Plans and linking them with the Statements of Intent of the member agencies.

Members wanted to ensure the document is a cross government National Drug Policy and is both informing the work of individual agencies and guiding collective work across agencies.

Members suggested the document should be more transparent, and include a focus on the role of the NGO sector in the development of future action plans and strategies. Further suggestions for the document were to add more diagrams for visual appeal, and to focus on more positive messages. Members suggested that including detail on the consequences of harm, such as harms of criminalisation (e.g. not being able to travel overseas) could also be included in the document.

Clarity over the ownership of the NDP document was established. Although the Ministry of Health is publishing the document it is a Government policy document and the foreword would come from the MCDP Chair.

Note: Paper noted

Action:

Agencies agreed to give any required updates within the two week time frame to be presented to the MCDP. Ruth Richards (MSD) to send through a few paragraphs to Health on current government strategy “Families young and old” with the agenda to link with the National Drug Policy.

5. PHI ON-LINE PRESENTATION BY DYFED THOMAS

A presentation was given by Dyfed Thomas, an Advisor in Public Health Intelligence, at the Ministry of Health, on the newly developed website: www.phionline.mog.govt.nz.

PHIOnline is a data visualisation tool, with a central map linked to tables and charts providing a multidimensional view of the data. It provides an alternative way to access Public Health Intelligence's (PHI) information through a web mapping interface rather than traditional text-based documents.

PHIOnline provides online access to data on New Zealand mortality, hospitalisations in public hospitals, and cancer registrations. The data is sourced from the New Zealand Health Information Service and the results of

the New Zealand Health Survey (2002/03). This website provides the ability to sort the data by District Health Board, year, gender and ethnicity (Maori and non-Maori).

As further agencies provide information for the site, new data will be able to be sourced by consumers as soon as the new data is added.

The Chair commented that this would be a useful approach for the IACD in identifying trends in drug use.

6. ILLICIT DRUGS IN PRISONS

Corrections provided IACD with an update on the delay in presenting the paper to the MCDP. Corrections advised that the paper, which is similar to the paper previously presented to the IACD but with the addition of more completed actions, will be going to the Minister on 15 September for final approval prior to being placed before the MCDP.

7. ILLICIT TOBACCO

Customs provided IACD with an oral update of a concern raised by a tobacco company over the illicit tobacco manufacture and the current regulation of tobacco. Currently the law states that every tobacco manufacturer is to be licensed with the exception of those that manufacture tobacco for their own use.

At this point Customs do not consider illicit cultivation to be a major issue compared with the threat of undeclared products being imported into the country. There are, however, some enforcement issues associated with the current regime.

Customs has prepared an options paper to their Minister giving the following options for strengthening current regulations:

1. Keeping the status quo
2. Clarifying personal exemption as there is no definition of area when growing own tobacco.
3. A full prohibition over personal use.
4. Enhance the licensing regime. This option is similar to the approach taken by Australia which currently licenses all tobacco products.

The meeting agreed that illicit cultivation was not as big a problem as encountered overseas.

Certain members requested that they be consulted on the paper being prepared by Customs on this subject for the MCDP.

8. REVIEW OF THE REGULATION OF ALCOHOL ADVERTISING

The Chair presented a noting paper to update IACD on the progress of the Review of the Regulation of Alcohol Advertising. It was reported that the request for submissions is to be sent out on 13 September and the closing date for submissions to be provided to the Ministry of Health is 31 October 2006.

The Chair thanked the Ministry of Youth Development for producing the Youth Friendly version. A further update will be given at the MCDP.

Noted: Update noted

9. NDP COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Health presented a paper for IACD members to consider the NDP communication strategy. The recommendation was for the IACD to establish a working group to make recommendations regarding the appropriate communication strategy for NDP for the next five years. The working group would ideally include input from a web developer/programmer.

There was a high degree of support for a new form of communication tool for drug policy within the IACD. Ideas included a mailing list for an electronic newsletter that updates readers on new information displayed on the NDP web site every month or bi monthly. It was noted that if the website is effective, there may be no need for a newsletter.

Agreed:

That an IACD working group would discuss how to develop a site that can update interested parties in drug policies throughout different agencies. The working group would include: Ian McDonald from Education, Kirsty Ruddlesden from Corrections, Megan Larken from ALAC, Alison Stephens from Justice and a website programmer.

10. ITEMS FOR BRIEF UPDATE

10.1 2006 Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) Workshop

A paper summarising the IGCD Workshop that was held in Australia was presented to the IACD for their information. The IGCD has a similar role in Australia to that of the IACD.

Note: Paper noted.

10.2 Culture Change Programme (Marketing)

ALAC provided the IACD with an update of the social marketing campaign, with the 'See' stage of the marketing campaign launched in March 2005, and the 'Think' stage launched in April 2006. Results of the campaign show that there is 96% total awareness of the campaign in everyday discussion. High levels of recall of advertisements and campaign statements were also noted.

The next stage of this programme is to bring in a community marketing strategy and to utilise tactical media. A paper is to be provided to the MCDP updating them on this issue.

ALAC recommended this paper to be put forward to the MCDP for noting.

Agreed:

That this paper would be put forward to the MCDP for noting. ALAC will clarify the age bracket that classifies an 'adult' before the MCDP meeting.

10.3 Alcohol & Illicit Drugs Monitoring Report Update

Justice updated the monitoring report and recommended it to be put forward to MCDP for noting.

IACD requested Justice to prepare a final monitoring report that outlines the achievements of different action plans for the next IACD meeting.

Action:

That Justice would provide the MCDP with a complete list of action plans from the original monitoring report and note the progress of each item, with the request for MCDP to close the monitoring report down.

10.4 NDP Funded Contracts

A summary paper updating members on the progress of NDP grant fund projects was presented and noted.

10.5 Drug Policy Modelling Programme (DPMP) Seminar on Strategic Approaches to Illicit Drugs Policy

The Chair presented notes from the DPMP seminar for IACD interest to share the value of a well-co-ordinated programme of research on illicit drugs, led by Margaret Hamilton.

Note: Paper noted.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Deferred Strategic Planning Day

IACD was requested to provide ideas for a strategic planning day. Members agreed that the topic of drug education is a high priority and that each agency will bring updates on what is in their business plans and/or statements of intent, and their current action plans/strategies. This is to be a forum for ideas for action plans/priorities for collaborative action and to inform MCDP.

Other inputs will also be discussed, such as emerging trends as presented at a previous Strategic Workshop in 2005.

Action:

That the Secretariat would organise the Strategic Planning Day.

11.2 Membership to the IACD

ACC has requested to be a member of the IACD and members resolved to invite ACC to be represented on the IACD.

Action:

That the Chair would invite the Accident Compensation Corporation to become a member of the IACD.

11.3 Methamphetamine Action Plan

At the previous MCDP meeting held on 13 June 2006, Ministers invited IACD agencies to identify any potential to improve the workability of the Methamphetamine Action Plan and report back to the MCDP when identified.

Action:

That Health would send out the most recent paper on the Methamphetamine Action Plan for other agencies to update and provide comment on.

12 NEXT MEETING

The Strategic Planning Day is scheduled to be held 10 November 2006.