

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

Strategic Workshop Planning Day

Friday 10 November 2006, 10.30am to 4pm

*ALAC Boardroom, Level 13, ABN Amro House, 36 Customhouse Quay,
Wellington.*

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

Attendees - IACD Agencies	
Ashley Bloomfield (Chair)	Ian Stuart (Social Development)
Chris Laurenson (Health)	Alison Stephens (Justice)
Bruce Atmore (Health)	Sheridan Smith (Justice)
Jo Burgi (Health)	Ruth Richards (Social Development)
Nicola Holden (Health)	Helen Fielding (Transport)
Olivia Stapleton (Health)	Amy Russell (Youth Development)
Wendy Moore (ALAC)	Susan Hunt (ACC)
Sara Bennett (ALAC)	Dave Negri (Customs)
Megan Larken (ALAC)	Rachel McLaren (Transport)
Chris Gooch (NDIB)	Robbie Galvin (Te Puni Kōkiri)
Lesley Daly (Police)	Kirsty Ruddlesden (Corrections)
Ian Macdonald (Education)	

Apologies	
Ross Judge (Social Development)	Vanessa Schuster (PI Affairs)

In attendance for item 2

Doug Sellman, National Addiction Centre

Ross Bell, New Zealand Drug Foundation

In attendance for item 6

Janelle Grady, Educating New Zealand

Monique Leerschool, Youth Development

2. GUEST SPEAKERS ON THE FUTURE OF DRUG POLICY

2.1 Presentation by Doug Sellman, Professor of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine and Director of the National Addiction Centre

Professor Doug Sellman provided his interpretation of the future of drug use over the next 20 years. Professor Sellman predicted that alcohol would continue to rank as the most widely consumed drug. In addition, he envisaged a rise in opioid, hallucinogen and stimulant use that would parallel high levels of anxiety and depression as a result of increasing disenfranchisement, a lack of meaning in everyday life and the growing social economic divide. A copy of this presentation is attached.

2.2 Presentation by Ross Bell, Executive Director of the New Zealand Drug Foundation

Ross Bell highlighted six key points regarding the Drug Foundation's view of the NDP, including:

1. Directions and priority setting: Action plans need to have realistic objectives, mechanisms for reporting progress, reviews of a high standard, effective communication to the public to encourage open debate, and there should be a willingness to revise them in light of new evidence.
2. Data: The Drug Foundation supports information and research based drug policy, but there is a need to place more emphasis on measures of drug-related harm as well as drug prevalence. New Zealand could learn from Australia's methodological development of a drug harm index.
3. Balance among the three pillars: The need to refocus resources from supply control to demand reduction, which are more cost-effective strategies.
4. The need to link the NDP to the wider social and economic context including issues of poverty, deprivation and marginalisation.
5. International Drug Policy: New Zealand must be represented at the CND in 2007 and UNGASS in 2008 and maintain its support for a harm reduction/minimisation approach at an international level.
6. Alcohol: The recently announced government review should be comprehensive and must not be allowed to languish.

2.3 Presentation by Chris Laurenson (Health)

Chris Laurenson asked members to reflect on the purpose, functions and processes of the IACD. This included:

- The need for Terms of Reference to outline the purpose of IACD, values, accountabilities, membership guidelines and the relationship with the Ministerial Committee on Drug Policy.
- The roles and responsibilities of the various members and agencies within the IACD.
- The purpose, agenda and format of IACD meetings.
- The decision making processes and the implementation of IACD resolutions.

- What is the IACD communication strategy, who is the audience and how will information be disseminated?
- The coordination and monitoring of data sources, the implementation of targets and progress indicators and the possibility of an annual report.

A copy of this presentation is attached.

IACD members expressed general support for the development of Terms of Reference, suggesting that this would be an effective way to ensure all agencies are represented appropriately and to gain the commitment of each agency at a senior level. Members reconfirmed the commitment of the IACD to ensuring that cross government policy discussion inform the Ministerial Committee and that IACD agreement should be reached before reporting to the Ministerial Committee. Furthermore, members agreed that the IACD should be monitoring/strategy focused and should adopt an active rather than passive communication approach.

Agreed:

That all members should be encouraged to consider the commitment of their respective agencies to IACD in order to establish the contribution, goals, resources and interests of each agency within IACD.

That draft IACD Terms of Reference will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration at the next IACD meeting.

3. IDENTIFYING ACTION POINTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICY – Ashley Bloomfield (Health)

Ashley Bloomfield chaired a discussion on the action points from the NDP that should be given priority over the next two years. Four main action points were identified and discussed.

1. Online Evidence

- a. Coordinating a stocktake of cross agency research on drug use and drug related harm and making this information available as online data. These data would be easy to understand and readily available. This process would be led by Public Health Intelligence (PHI) in the Ministry of Health but would also require commitment from other agencies.
- b. Coordinating a summary of new international evidence that would be regularly updated.
- c. Using the information in a. and b. to inform the development of actions, indicators and timelines – for action plans agreed by IACD agencies.

2. National Alcohol Strategy/Action Plan

Updating the National Alcohol Strategy was identified as a priority area. Members agreed that the action plan should build on existing plans/activities initiated by other agencies and therefore needs a strong cross-agency commitment. The need for an on-going monitoring strategy was also noted.

3. Drug Harm Index

The continued development of a Drug Harm Index will provide an important indicator of progress on the NDP and its effects on reducing drug related harm. The Drug Harm Index should be outcome focused and will assist in highlighting research gaps. It will have the potential to inform research agendas through the allocation of Discretionary Grant Funds. The development of a Drug Harm Index could be based on established models of assessing drug-related harm from the UK and Australia.

4. Drug Education/Information

Drug education consists of many approaches and can be applied to a diversity of settings. Given the importance of drug education as a demand reduction tool, it would therefore be appropriate to focus on current provision of drug education in schools, including by teachers and by external drug education providers, and in other settings/groups such as workforce, parents and communities.

Other Action plans

- Methamphetamine Action Plan

Members agreed that the Methamphetamine Action Plan should continue to be a regularly updated summary of actions taken by different agencies to address methamphetamine issues. It was agreed that continuing with this approach sufficiently informed Ministers on the national response to methamphetamine. It was suggested that a sub-group could be convened to look at the future direction of this Action Plan and whether it needed to be elevated or reshaped.

- Social Context

MSD and ALAC agreed to consider how the social context impacts on harm, with a view to developing a paper for IACD before consideration of an action plan.

- Balance between resourcing for supply and demand strategies.

The possibility of rebalancing resources across supply control, demand reduction and problem limitation was discussed. Further consideration by IACD was required on this issue and this could be a factor in setting priorities for the Discretionary Grant Fund.

Agreed:

That a subgroup convene to discuss the future direction of the methamphetamine action plan (Health).

5. REVIEW OF NDP DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND PROCESS

This item was deferred.

Agreed:

That last year's subcommittee which assessed the NDP Discretionary Grant Fund proposals would review the NDP Discretionary Grant Fund process and make a recommendation to IACD at the next meeting scheduled for the end of January 2007. The Secretariat would organise the meeting with subcommittee members.

6. DRUG EDUCATION

6.1 Presentation by Monique Leerschool, Acting Business Manager, Youth Development

Monique Leerschool spoke about the three-year drug education projects undertaken by the Ministry of Youth Development. MYD consulted extensively with young people, schools and alcohol and drug education providers nationwide to create the resources "Effective Drug Education for Young People", published in 2003, and the handbook and practical guide both called "Strengthening Drug Education in School Communities", published in 2004.

With the assistance of a NDP discretionary funding in 2005, Educating NZ and MYD held a series of workshops for school principals to introduce the principles of best practice for the design, delivery and evaluation of drug education as well as a quality assurance tool for assessing external drug education providers as described in the handbook and practical guide. During these workshops teachers and principals identified the need for evidence-based, best-practice drug education classroom resources designed for schools.

6.2 Presentation by Janelle Grady, Managing Director, Educating New Zealand

Janelle Grady spoke about Education Works New Zealand's work funded by another NDP discretionary funding grant this year to develop a matrix for guiding age-appropriate drug education as part of curriculum-based approach delivered by teachers. Work on this next step is taking place in consultation with the Ministry of Education and an expert advisory group.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the IACD will be organised by the Secretariat for late January 2007.