

# INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (IACD) MEETING

*24 July 2007, 1:30pm – 4:30pm*

*Customs, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 17 -21 Whitmore Street, Wellington*

## MINUTES

### 1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

<b>Attendees - IACD Agencies</b>	
Ashley Bloomfield (Chair)	Mike Blakeney (Customs)
Olivia Tuatoko (Health)	Claire Helliwell (Customs)
Bruce Atmore (Health)	Alex Travis (Justice)
Susan Edwards (Health)	Anna Mills (CYFS)
Frances Voykovich (Health)	Vanessa Schuster (PI Affairs)
Jenny Wolf (Health)	Helen Fielding (Transport)
Brendon Baker (Health)	Jo Brider (Education)
Amy Russell (Youth Development)	John Dermott (Education)
Robbie Galvin (TPK)	Ross Judge (MSD)
Misty McCarthy (TPK)	Ruth Richards (MSD)
Sara Bennett (ALAC)	Laurie Gabites (Local Government)
Megan Larken (ALAC)	Kirsty Ruddlesden (Corrections)
Mick Alexander (NDIB)	Justine Maynard (Corrections)
Jonathan Lyall (Police)	

<b>Apologies</b>	
Susan Hunt (ACC)	David Negri (Customs)
Wendy Moore (ALAC)	Grant Guillosson (MSD)
Chris Laurenson (Health)	

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, in particular Mick Alexander from NDIB, a new member of the Inter-agency Committee on Drug Policy, and Sarah Schulman a Rhodes Scholar and Doctoral Candidate at Oxford University where she is doing a cross-national study on inter-agency collaborative practice around youth. The Chair also welcomed again Matt Nice an Ian Axford fellow visiting from the United States, who will be giving a presentation on his findings on Methamphetamine.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 19 April 2007**

Members agreed that the Minutes from the IACD meeting held on 19 April 2007 be approved and placed on the NDP website.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING 19 April 2007**

### **3.1 Minute Item 3.3 *NDP Discretionary Grant Fund***

To be discussed at agenda item 6.2.i

### **3.2 Minute Item 4.1 *Terms of Reference***

To be discussed at agenda item 6.i

### **3.3 Minute Item 5 *Alcohol and Illegal Drug Monitoring Report***

To be discussed at agenda item 6.1.i

### **3.4 Minute Item 7 *Revision of the National Alcohol Strategy***

To be discussed at agenda item 6.1.ii

### **3.5 Minute Item 8 *Methamphetamine Action Plan***

Subcommittee still to meet.

### **3.6 Minute Item 10 *FASD Strategy***

To be discussed at agenda item 6.1.iii

### **3.7 Minute Item 11 *Volatile Substance Abuse***

Information to be distributed once received.

## **4 PRESENTATION FROM AXFORD RESEARCH FELLOW, MATT NICE**

A presentation was given by Matt Nice, an Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellow, on his paper "Using an Outcome-Based Framework to Analyse Drug Policies upon Methamphetamine Markets: A Comparison of New Zealand and the United States (Oregon).

Nice explained how controls have worked over time in Oregon and the differences it has shown with the use and production of the substance. However New Zealand controls have not worked as well and no drop in use or manufacture has been obvious. In particular, he outlined concerns, with the current control system of precursor drugs.

Another issue that Nice outlined in the report, was to have a system to identify people that have drug problems and to deal with those issues through treatment rather than adding them to the criminal justice system.

The Committee agreed that Nice's paper raised some good issues, and is a good initiative in the aspects of what needs to be done for New Zealand. The report also outlined some issues on how what problems need to be addressed.

Discussion around Nice's idea of treatment showed promise, however further discussion recommended that it would not be enough to just treat users but to give them continuing support and services.

The Chair thanked Matt Nice for his presentation.

**Action:**

**The Methamphetamine working group to consider The Nice report with regards to precursor controls.**

**Health to organise the next meeting of the Methamphetamine working group.**

## **5. AGENCY UPDATES**

### **I. Illegal Manufacturing of Tobacco Products (CUSTOMS)**

Customs commented that there are both fiscal and social disadvantages associated with the illegal manufacturing of tobacco products. One of the health disadvantages is that illegally made tobacco products are cheaper to buy, which encourages higher smoking levels.

At its October 2006 meeting the MCDP indicated that the issue of illegal manufacturing of tobacco products should be addressed by amending the "personal use exemption". Amending the "personal use exemption" was seen as a way of reducing the scope for illegal manufacturers to evade prosecution.

Since October court cases have demonstrated that the level of deterrence against illegally making tobacco products (and related offences) is low, and the cost of taking prosecutions is high compared to the penalties imposed by the judiciary. A further concern is that anecdotal information suggested that the amount of tobacco under cultivation in early 2007 was higher than in previous years. In view of these factors the next MCDP paper, provided to the IACD for noting, looks at future policy options.

In discussion the IACD raised the possibility of a ban on all tobacco growing. The Ministry of Justice tentatively commented that this would be unlikely to raise Bill of Rights issues.

**Action:**

**Ministry of Health and Customs to work together on this issue once a decision is made by the MCDP.**

**II. Alcohol Advertising Review Update**

Health provided a paper to update the IACD on the Review of the Regulation of Alcohol Advertising. Health reported that the Steering Group for the Review reported to the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Damien O'Connor in April 07, recommending a package of legislative and non-legislative changes to enhance and strengthen the existing system.

**III. Presentation from Mick Alexander on NDIB**

Mick Alexander, Coordinator of National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB) gave a short presentation on the workings of the NDIB. He updated members on the history, its current situation and what it wishes to achieve in the future.

He outlined that NDIB is strictly intelligence, which they achieve by the collation of information, forewarning of activities, and advising decision makers in which this information can be acted on.

**6. ADMINISTRATION AND NDP GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

**I. Terms of Reference**

The working group finalised draft Terms of Reference with requested changes from the wider IACD and was approved.

**Action:**

**Agreed Terms of Reference to be distributed amongst the IACD and to be issued for future members.**

**6.1 PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUPS**

**I. Alcohol and illegal drug monitoring report**

The Chair thanked those agencies that took the time to help with the Monitoring report. The IACD discussed this issue and thought at the previous meeting only those agencies that held new, innovative and project based work would fill in the monitoring report. However it would understand that it should be key inter-agency projects.

Discussion around how the report was formatted was made. Some members felt that it should be listed by issues and not by agencies.

The Chair advised that this monitoring report should paint a picture to the Ministers on what the Inter-Agency Committee is doing, and asked agencies to think more carefully about what they wish to achieve for Alcohol and Drug Issues.

**Action:**

**Agencies that have current issues and have not yet filled in the monitoring report should send it to the Secretariat by the next morning.**

## **II.National Alcohol Strategy**

ALAC presented a paper on the National Alcohol Strategy. This paper updated the IACD members on the progress with the development of the Strategy Action Plan and requested an extension to the deadline for the completion of the draft NAS Action Plan from 31 October 07 to 30 November 07.

IACD agreed to the extension and agreed to the joining of the Police to the working group. ALAC also informed the members that a Gantt chart has been developed and is available to anyone who wants a copy.

**Action:**

**Members agreed to the extension of the completion date to 30 November 07.**

**Police to join the National Alcohol Strategy working group.**

## **III.FASD Strategy - Replaced with “The Establishment of IACD Advisory Groups and the Terms of Reference”**

A paper prepared by ALAC on the establishment of IACD advisory groups and the terms of reference was provided to the IACD. This paper was to seek an agreement from the IACD to a generic approach to forming an Advisory Group of people with a wide range of relevant expertise in the areas in which IACD wishes to develop Action Plans under the National Drug Policy.

The IACD agreed that coming up with a generic approach to establishing Advisory Groups for the development of Action Plans would be appropriate. The Chair requested that members of the IACD work with ALAC to finalise this piece of work, and forward any comments they may have to ALAC.

**Action:**

**IACD members, to forward any comments to ALAC by 17 August 2007.**

## 6.2 NDP DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND

### I. Recommendations to MCDP

2. Twenty applications were received for the 07/08 round of the fund, requesting an amount of \$1,924,069.53 (GST excl). An IACD sub-committee was formed. The sub-committee included representatives from the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand; New Zealand Police, Ministry of Health, and the Accident Compensation Corporation, with further comments received from the Ministry of Youth Development.

The paper prepared by the Secretariat summarised each proposal and the conclusions reached by the subcommittee. Some of the applicants were contacted again to comment on further queries the subcommittee may have had.

The Committee considered and discussed all of the proposals, largely agreeing with the IACD subcommittee's conclusions. The committee also agreed to contact those applicants that had a poor rating by their referees and ask them to respond on those comments.

The committee also agreed that another referee was needed on one of the applications as it was a research paper and the referees given were only treatment experts. Because of the applicant being virtually unknown to the IACD further information was needed before acceptance of the proposal.

#### ***Agreed:***

**Members agreed to recommend to the MCDP the following proposals for funding:**

- **Prescription drug misuse and issues for primary care: A Survey of GPs and Community Pharmacists, for funding of - \$164,120 (GST excl)**
- **The use, effects and self-reported adverse effects of legally available and unclassified psychoactive substances in New Zealand among young people: a web-based survey, for funding of - \$149,258 (GST excl)**
- **Addictions Sector Policy Development, for funding of - \$88,888.89 (GST excl)**
- **Building parent and caregiver's knowledge and skills around alcohol supply to minors with the aim of reducing alcohol related harm, for funding of - \$70,622.80 (GST excl)**
- **What do health care professionals know and do about maternal alcohol and other drug use during pregnancy, for funding of - \$68,450 (GST excl)**

- **Factors that support abstinence or responsible alcohol consumption amongst Pacific youth: A qualitative investigation, for funding of - \$97,404.20 (GST excl)**
- **Individual dollar expenditures on illegal drug use and drug related property crime, for funding of - \$31,630 (GST excl)**
- **The relationship between drug use and criminal offending among arrestees in New Zealand, for funding of - \$37,956 (GST excl)**
- **Life to the Max, Horowhenua Trust, for funding of - \$64,444.44 (GST excl)**

The IACD agreed to approve the following proposal subject to further discussions between outside researchers.

- **Characteristics of non-alcohol/drug-users, particularly non drinking (or non-problem-drinking and non-smoking) Maori youth (under age 18), for funding of no more than - \$180,000 (GST excl)**

## **7. ACTION PLANS**

### **I. Illegal Drug Harm Index**

Police provided a paper on the Illegal Drug Harm Index. At the March 07 MCDP meeting, ministers requested a paper on why alcohol and tobacco was not included in the index. The IACD agreed that these is already relatively good information of the harms from tobacco and alcohol and that it was important to focus this particular project on illegal drugs for which there is much less information. By extending the scope of the brief the project may fail to achieve its objectives.

#### **Action:**

**Request to Police to copy in Hon Anderton's office when sending out the review.**

### **II. NZDF Involvement**

A letter was sent to the IACD Chair from Ross Bell, New Zealand Drug Foundation, offering help in the development of the NDP Action Plans. IACD noted that NZDF is involved in an advisory capacity in various work areas, and will no doubt be involved in the development of action plans.

## **8. OTHER ITEMS**

At the previous MCDP the Chair of the MCDP requested that the Chair of the IACD report back on the workings of the IACD, and what changes have been made to strengthen the committee.

Ideas from the IACD were;

- MCDP Chair to write to CEO's with brief update after MCDP meetings
- Hon Anderton to invite CEOs to one MCDP meeting annually
- IACD staff from Social Sector Forum agencies identify relevant issues for discussion at these meetings and ask their CEO to raise these.

## **9. Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD) UPDATE**

The Chair gave the IACD an update on what issues have risen in the EACD. Current Issues have been BZP, in which Cabinet has decided to classify BZP, phenylpiperazine and related substances in Class C1 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975; set a presumption for supply of BZP, phenylpiperazine and related substances at 5 grams or 100 tablets, capsules or other drugs forms each containing some quantity of the substance; and provide for an amnesty for those in possession or using BZP or related substances for a period of six months, from the date of enactment of the legislation.

Other issues that have risen have been Ketamine, where the committee agreed to recommend to classify as C4, and Norephedrine where the status quo would be kept.

The Chair advised the IACD if they had any issues they wish for the EACD to discuss then to advise the IACD Secretariat.

## **10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Transport advised the IACD that the Drugged Driving Bill is currently under political consultation.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

The next IACD meeting will be the annual strategic workshop and the date will be advised by the Secretariat.

### **Action:**

**A summary of last years strategic meeting will be sent out to the members with a request for any ideas they wish to discuss at the workshop.**

Meeting closed at 4.30pm