



EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DRUGS (EACD) MEETING

Minutes

Chair: Dr Bob Boyd

**Friday, 24 October 2003, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Teleconference**

Members present:

Dr Bob Boyd (Chair)
Dr Stewart Jessamine
Associate Professor Tim Maling
Dr Doug Sellman
Dr Geoffrey Robinson
Andrew Coleman
Dr Keith Bedford
Detective Inspector Gary Knowles
Apology – Keremete Warbrick
Apology – Dr Helen Moriarty

Secretariat attending:

Matthew Andrews
Megan O'Brien

Preliminary paper on Ephedrine

The EACD considered the preliminary paper on ephedrine.

The EACD discussed the shift toward illicit importations of ephedrine rather than pseudoephedrine. It was noted that methods of importation have changed and are beginning to resemble the methods of importation usually used only for Class A drugs. Customs have stated that they expect seizures at the border to soon move to kilogram lots.

It was discussed whether this was an international trend or something peculiar to New Zealand. It was stated that although it was a probably a problem internationally it was probably a more acute issue for New Zealand.

The EACD discussed ephedra and considered that it was probably appropriately classified as a prescription medicine and unlikely to pose a risk.

Agreed: that the EACD recommend to the Associate Minister of Health that Ephedrine be made a Class C controlled drug, available on prescription, and subject to import/export requirements and a licence to deal. The Ministry of Health to advise as to exact classification to match these requirements (C6).

3. General business

The EACD discussed the need to place pseudoephedrine in two separate classes under the Schedules of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 so as to capture the current restrictions placed on pharmacy-only and prescription pseudoephedrine products under the Medicines Act 1981.

Agreed: the Ministry of Health to advise.

The EACD discussed a request from an Otago University doctoral student to interview members of the EACD.

Agreed: that the EACD has set procedures and is represented through the Chair. It was agreed that the Chair and the Secretariat would organise a meeting with the doctoral student.

4. Next meeting

Agreed: that the next meeting would be arranged for early February.