



Ministry of Health Library

Knowledge for health

Grey Matter: A Collection of Recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government Reports

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Welcome to Grey Matter, the Ministry of Health Library's Grey Literature Bulletin. In each issue, we provide access to a selection of the most recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government reports that are relevant to the health context. The goal of this newsletter is to facilitate access to material that may be more difficult to locate (in contrast to journal articles and the news media). Information is arranged by topic, allowing readers to quickly hone in on their key areas of interest. Email library@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Childhood obesity-brave and bold action](#)

"Treating obesity and its consequences is currently estimated to cost the NHS £5.1bn every year. It is one of the risk factors for type 2 diabetes, which accounts for spending of £8.8 billion a year, almost 9% of the NHS budget. The wider costs of obesity to society are estimated to be around three times this amount. By contrast, the UK spends only around £638 million on obesity prevention programmes. Few effective interventions are in place to help those children identified as overweight or obese, making it all the more important to focus on prevention. The recommendations we make in this report have a strong focus on changing the food environment, reflecting the evidence we have heard." *Source: UK Health Select Committee*

[Confronting obesity in Europe: Taking action to change the default setting](#)

This report “examines and assesses existing European national government policies for dealing with the obesity crisis. The findings of this report are based on desk research and 19 in-depth interviews with a range of senior healthcare experts, including healthcare practitioners, academics and policymakers.” *Source: Economist Intelligence Unit*

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Public Health

[Principles of public health interventions to support injury recovery and return to productivity](#)

“This review examined the evidence for the effectiveness for public health interventions and identified principles and strategies which could be used in public health interventions for injured people. The review found evidence that self-efficacy and/or goal setting are potentially effective approaches that could be incorporated into broader interventions and that cognitive behavioural therapy interventions can demonstrate significant and sustained improvements, particularly in the area of back pain. Multi-component interventions appear to be the most effective.” *Source: Sax Institute*

[Disability and domestic abuse: Risk, impacts and response](#)

“This topic overview improves understanding of the complexities of disabled people’s experiences of domestic abuse and promotes consideration of these complexities within the public health system.” *Source: Public Health England*

[Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence](#)

“In the past 20 years, increasing attention has been paid to ending impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict-affected settings and to achieving assistance and justice for victims. It is acknowledged that this is an important part of the response to sexual violence. While there have been significant advances, there remains a lack of clarity about what medico-legal evidence should be collected to support national and international criminal justice processes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Communicating to Advance the Public’s Health: Workshop Summary](#)

“The Institute of Medicine’s Roundtable on Population Health Improvement brings together individuals and organizations that represent different sectors in a dialogue about what is needed to improve population health. On September 22, 2014, the roundtable held a workshop to discuss some of the science of health communication, audiences, and messaging, and to explore what it will take to generate widespread awareness, acceptance, and action to improve health, including through the entertainment media, the news media, and social media. This report summarizes the presentations and discussion of the workshop.” *Source: Institute of Medicine*

[Climate change and health in the Western Pacific Region: Synthesis of evidence, profiles of selected countries and policy direction](#)

“This report synthesizes information and approaches on climate change and health pertinent to Member States in the Western Pacific Region. It also examines efforts and initiatives by various experts and stakeholders, with an in-depth look at experiences in seven Member

States that reflect the diversity of the Region. Finally, it offers recommendations for policy-makers." *Source: World Health Organization*

Status of health-care waste management in selected countries of the Western Pacific Region

"The provision of health-care services results in the generation of solid and liquid wastes, some of which are hazardous. Individuals exposed to health-care waste (HCW), particularly hazardous HCW, are potentially at risk of being injured or infected. The World Health Organization has a leading role in the prevention and/or reduction of risks created by this type of waste and has issued several policy documents to support countries in the implementation of better health-care waste management (HCWM) systems. This report presents the status of HCWM in selected countries in the Western Pacific Region." *Source: World Health Organization*

Measuring the effectiveness of the 'whole-of-system' response to prevent family violence

"This report highlights the challenges in 'whole of system' approaches to measuring effectiveness of responses to social sector subjects of concern such as family violence. It reconfirms the specific issues around quality and access of data for the effectiveness of these whole of system approaches." *Source: Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit*

Health in 2015: from MDGs to SDGs

"In 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to the end of their term, and a post-2015 agenda, comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), takes their place. This WHO report looks back 15 years at the trends and positive forces during the MDG era and assesses the main challenges that will affect health in the coming 15 years." *Source: World Health Organization*

Essential Services Package

"The Joint Global Programme for Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender based violence. The Programme identifies the essential services to be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors (the "Essential Services") as well as guidelines for the coordination of Essential Services and the governance of coordination processes and mechanisms (the "Coordination Guidelines"). Service delivery guidelines for the core elements of each essential service have been identified to ensure the delivery of high quality services, particularly for low and middle income countries for women and girls experiencing violence." *Source: UN Women*

Alcohol-specific activity in hospitals in England

"Alcohol-related harm is placing increasing demands on the NHS. At a time when unprecedented efficiencies need to be made by the NHS and local authorities, preventative action must be taken seriously. This analysis explores trends in alcohol-specific activity in hospitals in England. The analysis also explores the use of hospital services before and after a diagnosis of alcohol-related liver disease (ALRD) and highlights opportunities for preventative action to reduce future alcohol-related harm in England." *Source: Nuffield Trust*

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Inequalities

[Anchoring universal health coverage in the right to health: What difference would it make?](#)

“The underlying assumption of this paper is that efforts towards achieving UHC do promote some, but not necessarily all, of the efforts required from governments for the realization of the right to health. While this publication explores how efforts to advance towards UHC overlap with efforts to realize the right to health, its main focus is the gaps that exist between UHC efforts and right to health efforts.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[An evidence review on the contribution of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to improving Aboriginal health](#)

“The purpose of this literature review is to present the evidence supporting the contributions of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to improving the health of Aboriginal peoples, so that this information is available to all individuals and organisations working to improve Aboriginal health.” *Source: Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW*

[The road is made by walking: towards a better primary health care system for Australia's first peoples](#)

“The research reported here is a study of reforms in primary health care (PHC) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Northern Territory (between 2009 and 2014) and Cape York, Queensland (between 2006 and 2014). In both places, the intention of the reforms was twofold: to establish a regional system of PHC provision with reliable access to care for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the regions, and to increase community control of health care by transferring some or most of the responsibility for providing PHC from government health authorities to regional Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).” *Source: Lowitja Institute*

[Debt and Health: A Briefing](#)

“In this policy briefing, the problem of debt and its inherent consequences for health will be further investigated. In particular, the briefing will be focusing on the close relationship existing between debt and mental health issues and what actions health and social care professionals can pursue in order to ease the burden and make a positive difference in the people’s lives affected by debt and mental health problems. Finally, a set of urgent and cost-effective policy measures and research recommendations will be suggested.” *Source: Picker Institute Europe*

[The Health of the 51%: Women](#)

“The report examines women’s health in England and makes a range of recommendations to improve it. It identifies several missed opportunities for intervention in women’s health, and brings attention to ‘embarrassment’ as a needless barrier to health.” *Source: UK Department of Health*

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Disability & Social Care

[The end of formal adult social care: A provocation by the ILC-UK](#)

“Is this the end for formal adult social care? While many have welcomed the government’s acknowledgement that adult social care requires more funding, this paper argues the proposed measures outlined in the Spending Review will not be sufficient to meet the growing care needs of an ageing population. Indeed, they are likely to result in a polarisation of care – private formal care for those that can afford it, rising reliance on informal carers and increasing unmet needs for those that can’t.” *Source: International Longevity Centre UK*

[Transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care home settings for adults with social care needs](#)

“This guideline covers the transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care homes for adults with social care needs. It aims to improve people’s experience of admission to, and discharge from, hospital by better coordination of health and social care services.” *Source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)*

[Dementia friendly communities: supported learning and outreach with the deaf community](#)

“There is strong evidence of a link between hearing loss and dementia. People with mild hearing loss have nearly twice the chance of going on to develop dementia as people without any hearing loss. This Solutions focuses on a programme of dementia awareness for deaf people which aimed to break down barriers people in the deaf community face in accessing dementia support.” *Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

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Long-Term Conditions

[Building the House of Care](#)

“This paper explores how the House of Care, a coordinated approach to personalised care and support planning, can transform the health and care of people with long-term conditions (LTCs).” *Source: Health Foundation*

[The Labour Market Impacts of Obesity, Smoking, Alcohol Use and Related Chronic Diseases](#)

“This paper examines the labour market impacts of lifestyle risk factors and associated chronic diseases, in terms of employment opportunities, wages, productivity, sick leave, early retirement and receipt of disability benefits. It provides a review of the evidence of the labour market outcomes of key risk factors (obesity, smoking and hazardous drinking) and of a number of related chronic diseases, along with findings from new analyses conducted on data from a selection of OECD countries.” *Source: OECD*

[Targets and indicators for chronic disease prevention in Australia](#)

“This report documents the targets and indications that can support, guide and track progress towards a substantial change in the health of Australia. The work comes for a national coalition through the operations of seven working groups and other supporting organisations.” *Source: Australian Health Policy Collaboration*

[**A practical guide to self-management support: Key components for successful implementation**](#)

“This guide provides an overview of self-management support and the key components for effective implementation. It will be useful both for those starting their self-management support journey and those building on and improving the support that they already provide. The guide explains what self-management support is and why it is important. It then looks at various aspects of putting it into practice, including planning and commissioning, building knowledge, skills and confidence, and measurement and evaluation.” *Source: Health Foundation*

[**Type 2 diabetes in adults: management**](#)

“This guideline covers the care and management of type 2 diabetes in adults (aged 18 and over). It focuses on patient education, dietary advice, managing cardiovascular risk, managing blood glucose levels, and identifying and managing long-term complications.” *Source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)*

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Health of Older People

[**Help them home - The challenges facing families of older patients**](#)

“Help them home, is part of Royal Voluntary Service’s Let’s End Going Home Alone campaign which calls on communities, local authorities and the NHS to work in partnership to provide more volunteers in hospitals and support vulnerable older people in their homes following discharge from hospital.” *Source: Royal Voluntary Service*

[**Can Yoga Create Calm in People with Dementia?**](#)

“This practitioner research project aims to examine whether yoga can help bring about calm in people with dementia. Existing research has predominantly focused on how yoga can improve physical mobility for people with dementia; the emotional experience for the individual would seem to be relatively unexplored.” *Source: Alzheimer Scotland*

[**Resilience and wellbeing in people living with dementia in relation to perceived attitudes in their communities**](#)

“This study sought to explore the perceptions of people with dementia in relation to attitudes within their communities and how they respond to these perceived attitudes and behaviours.” *Source: Alzheimer Scotland*

[**An evidence-informed national seniors strategy for Canada**](#)

“The way we approach our coming of age will also require coordination and mobilization across government departments as well as between the private and public sectors. Indeed, many are now seeing the need for an integrated approach where the federal government could help keep us all moving in the right direction. As a result, many see that implementing a National Seniors Strategy could provide us exactly the focus and commitment we need to ensure Canada can become the best country to grow up and grow old in.” *Source: National Seniors Strategy Canada*

[**Dementia in the Family: Impact on Carers**](#)

“This report highlights the challenges and the hardships, but also the rewards and the touching moments. The research shines a light on the reality of living with dementia, both for the person with the condition and those who often sacrifice personal well-being to ensure their loved one gets the best care they can provide.” *Source: Alzheimer’s Research UK*

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Child, Youth, & Maternal Health

[A Healthy Early Childhood Action Plan: Policies for a Lifetime of Wellbeing](#)

“There is growing scientific and medical evidence that investing in keeping children healthy when they are young leads to payoffs throughout their entire lives. A healthy start can help put a child on the path toward achievement in school, career, community, family and life. Research shows that high-quality preventive healthcare; nurturing, stable caretakers and relationships; good nutrition and physical activity; positive learning experiences; and a safe home, neighborhood and environment can also have a positive long-term impact on a child’s development.” *Source: Trust for America’s Health*

[Child unintentional deaths and injuries in New Zealand, and prevention strategies](#)

“This report presents an in-depth analysis of the nine major causes of unintentional injuries in NZ children. It also references proven prevention strategies for each cause.” *Safe Kids Aotearoa*

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Workforce

[Horizon 2035 - Future demand for skills: initial results](#)

“This report highlights interim findings from Horizon 2035, a key piece of work to help consider how a series of challenges and opportunities may combine in the future and impact the health, public health and social care workforce.” *Source: Centre for Workforce Intelligence*

[The role of allied health professionals in public health: examples of interventions delivered by allied health professionals that improve the public's health](#)

“Public Health England commissioned a team of academics led by Sheffield Hallam University to undertake an initial review to: identify examples where there is good evidence of impact on public health by Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and therefore an opportunity to broaden practice; identify areas which require more focus to demonstrate impact by AHPs on public health.” *Source: Public Health England*

[Assessing Progress on the Institute of Medicine Report The Future of Nursing](#)

“In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released the report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, which made a series of recommendations pertaining to roles for nurses in the new health care landscape. This current report assesses progress made by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/AARP *Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action* and others in implementing the recommendations from the 2010 report and identifies areas that should

be emphasized over the next 5 years to make further progress toward these goals.” *Source: Institute of Medicine *sign up for free account to download*

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Palliative Care

[Better Endings: Right care, right place, right time](#)

“This review brings together recent evidence which might help those delivering, planning or using end of life services.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research*

[Care of dying adults in the last days of life](#)

“This guideline covers the clinical care of adults (18 years and over) who are dying during the last 2 to 3 days of life. It aims to improve end of life care for people in their last days of life by communicating respectfully and involving them, and the people important to them, in decisions and by maintaining their comfort and dignity. The guideline covers how to manage common symptoms without causing unacceptable side effects and maintain hydration in the last days of life.” *Source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)*

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Mental Health

[Nonpharmacological Versus Pharmacological Treatments for Adult Patients With Major Depressive Disorder](#)

The objective of this report is “to compare the benefits and harms of second-generation antidepressants (SGAs), psychological, complementary and alternative medicine, and exercise treatment options as first step interventions for adult outpatients with acute-phase major depressive disorder (MDD), and as second-step interventions for patients with MDD who did not achieve remission after a first treatment attempt with SGAs.” *Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*

[Bright Futures: Megatrends impacting the mental wellbeing of young Victorians over the coming 20 years](#)

“This report was commissioned to provide a clearer understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead for young people in Victoria. The report provides an analysis of new and emerging trends in society and their resulting influences on young people’s mental wellbeing. It identifies that resilience is an important asset required for all young people to be successful into the future.” *Source: VicHealth*

[A New Way Forward](#)

“This strategy by the Mental Health Foundation, sets out the case for a fresh emphasis on the prevention of mental health issues, including understanding the causation and development of mental health problems, the pattern of risks, and the prevalence across different individuals and groups. Critically, this has to be linked to service innovation and focused investment where solutions will have most impact. The Foundation identifies patterns of mental health problems and their causes. The strategy sets out the case for a

strong and multifaceted focus on prevention, which recognises that different solutions are appropriate for different groups.” *Source: UK Mental Health Foundation*

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Quality & Safety

[Implementing system-wide risk stratification approaches: a review of critical success and failure factors](#)

“This review focused on the implementation of risk stratification tools. It found that the use of risk stratification tools in combination with a care management plan can improve patient outcomes. The use of risk stratification tools to determine components of a care management plan can contribute to reductions in hospital readmissions, health service use and improved patient outcomes. Some critical enablers and barriers to successful implementation included engaging clinicians in tool implementation, refinement and use; a supportive context; data requirements and tool characteristics; and responsiveness to equity issues.” *Source: Sax Institute*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reform

[Intentional whole health system redesign: Southcentral Foundation’s ‘Nuka’ system of care](#)

“This case study has been written to offer inspiration for commissioners and providers in the English NHS, in particular the vanguards in the NHS’s new care models programme, embarking on system redesign. It aims to provide a description of Southcentral’s transformation journey as well as a snapshot of its service and organisational model, focusing on issues that are likely to be of most relevance to local NHS systems developing new care models.” *Source: King’s Fund*

[Joining up public services around local, citizen needs](#)

“This is an early discussion paper that aims to synthesise the existing literature on the barriers to joining up and insights on how to overcome these. As part of this, [the authors] have identified several case studies where joining up has been successful.” *Source: Institute for Government*

[Effective community-level change: What makes community-level initiatives effective and how can central government best support them?](#)

“This report presents the findings of a literature review commissioned by the Ministry of Social Development and Superu. The purpose of the project was to inform the Ministry about what works in community-level initiatives, and how central government can best support effective community level initiatives.” *Source: Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit*

[The State of Play in Person-Centred Care](#)

“The overview of person-centred care provides an introduction, overview of context, conceptual groupings and strategic research issues, and the practical themes sections

summarise key findings across seven practical themes in implementation and measurement.” *Source: Health Policy Partnership*

[The A&E winter crisis: lessons from last year](#)

“England’s NHS has faced a succession of winter crises in A&E departments. In 2013/14, £250m in additional funding was allocated to address the anticipated pressures – but it failed to head off pressures and was criticised as a “sticking plaster”. In 2014/15 an extra £700 million was spent as the Government, promised the Health Service would be “better prepared than ever”. But this did not prevent the worst waiting times performance in a decade, and a string of black alerts. This year the NHS faces a daunting winter with no extra money on tap. This briefing draws on expert seminars and analysis by the Nuffield Trust and others to answer the question of what happened to the £700m spent on addressing winter pressures last year, and how we can avoid repeating the same mistakes.” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

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Health Technology

[Health Information Exchange](#)

“This review sought to systematically review the available literature on health information exchange (HIE), the electronic sharing of clinical information across the boundaries of health care organizations. HIE has been promoted as an important application of technology in medicine that can improve the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, quality, and safety of health care delivery. However, HIE also requires considerable investment by sponsors, which have included governments as well as health care organizations. This review aims to synthesize the currently available research addressing HIE effectiveness, use, usability, barriers and facilitators to actual use, implementation, and sustainability, and to present this information as a foundation on which future implementation, expansion, and research can be based.” *Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*

[Appropriate Use of Advanced Technologies for Radiation Therapy and Surgery in Oncology: Workshop Summary](#)

“The increased cost of novel treatments without adequate assessment of how they affect patient outcomes is a pressing concern given that inappropriate use of expensive technologies is one of the key factors that threaten the affordability of cancer care in the United States. To explore these issues further, the National Cancer Policy Forum (NCPF) of the Institute of Medicine organized a workshop in July 2015. This is the third NCPF workshop in a series examining the affordability of cancer care. Participants explored clinical benefits and comparative effectiveness of emerging advanced technologies for cancer treatment in radiation therapy and surgery and potential strategies to assess the value and promote optimal use of new technologies in cancer treatment. This report summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: Institute of Medicine*

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public, and is not intended to address specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity.