

# Public Health Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

**Meeting:** Tuesday 20 June, 9:30am to 4:30pm

**Location/platform:** Online, Zoom

### Attendees

**PHAC Members:** Kevin Hague (Chair), Peter Crampton, Sir Collin Tukuitonga and Jason Gurney

**Secretariat:** Jonathon Jones and Chloe Reynolds

**Guests:** Dr Stella Vickers, Sarah Appleton, Dr Nicholas Jones, Dr Harriette Carr, Selah Hart, Kim Dougall, Belinda Loring and Danielle Griffioen

**Apologies:** Ruth Cunningham and Beverly Te Huia

### Opening of meeting

1. Opening karakia by Jason Gurney.
2. Members asked to update declarations of interest. No new interests declared.
3. Review of 23 May 2023 minutes. Members then agreed the minutes were accurate and correct.

### Actions:

- 23 May 2023 minutes and agenda to be published to PHAC website.

### Activities since last meeting

4. The secretariat referred members to the paper outlining activities between committee meetings.

### Synergia qualitative interview research

5. Dr Stella Vickers and Sarah Appleton from Synergia provided an update of the qualitative stakeholder interview project. They noted that stakeholders have

been positive, receptive, and willing to participate. The interview schedule and concept map were working well. Principles and values were emerging as key areas of interest through the interviews, as was rights and power dynamics, particularly between industry and consumers.

6. Synergia shared views on possible next step actions such as whole of system mapping using system mapping dynamics, deep dives into the quantitative or qualitative evidence, including a kaupapa Māori approach or a facilitated hui.
7. Synergia will lead a sense making session on 17 July. This is an opportunity for a collaborative review of the initial findings of this research. The discussion will confirm the structure for the written report (which will align with the PHAC's concept map) and agree key themes and messaging for the draft report.

### **PHAC work programme**

8. The secretariat led the PHAC members through a planning session to consider additional topics for the PHAC's work programme. Earlier in the year, the PHAC agreed to begin to focus on its major topic for 2024 mid-way through this year. It was also noted that the PHAC could take on smaller pieces of work in addition to the major topic of focus.
9. Members reflected on work from the beginning of the year when each member proposed three topics for the PHAC's 2023 work programme. Building on this, members considered whether there were any additional topics they wished to propose.
10. Discussion centred on the three topics identified earlier in the year with some further expansion from members:
  - i. *Determinants of health* – the PHAC considered a benchmarking exercise could be useful to sharpen focus of certain determinants to the broader health system. It was noted that the previous PHAC had completed similar work and that could be used as a comparison to examine where New Zealand has progressed, or where there was additional need. This could also highlight new and emerging determinants, such as digital and commercial determinants, and take a broader perspective of economic determinants.
  - ii. *Equity* – the PHAC discussed the value it could add in the space of equity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The PHAC could develop a position statement, to

lend its independent voice to the evidence-based narrative. It was noted the PHAC could build on its work with the Human Rights Commission on a rights-based approach to healthy food.

- iii. *Climate Change* – the PHAC discussed how it could contribute to the health system's response to the effects of climate change. The levers and remit the Minister of Health has was considered, and how a cross-agency effort could influence health outcomes, aligned with a determinants of health approach.

#### **Actions:**

- The PHAC agreed that the chair should seek to present to the Shared Public Health Leadership Group on the PHAC's proposed topics for its future work programme.

#### **Office of the Director of Public Health**

11. The PHAC met with the Director of Public Health, Dr Nicholas Jones and Deputy Director of Public Health Dr Harriette Carr to discuss the PHAC's work programme and priorities for the Office of the Director of Public Health.
12. On priorities, Dr Jones highlighted the opportunity of getting more public participation in public health. He pointed to local government engagement with the community and to take lessons from the COVID-19 response, like the Care in the Community programme and immunisation programmes. He noted interest around children's vulnerability to marketing and the impacts of the digital determinants of health, through business models that provide services in exchange for the collection of data, which is targeting specific populations. He suggested the PHAC could undertake an international review of how to increase public participation (ie through surveys or hui) but this would require infrastructure.
13. On the topic of climate change, he noted efforts have focused on mitigation but there is potential for greater public health involvement in climate adaption. There will be overlap with determinants of health and equity impacts so adaption approaches do not disadvantage rural, coastal or Māori communities and those impacted by land loss. Issues to bear in mind are maintaining a connection to whakapapa and whenua at the same time as adapting to coastal inundation.
14. Priorities noted by Dr Carr were the tensions around all levels of sporting and cultural events receiving funding from gambling proceeds, and how this is

funded, and by whom. She also referred to the need to address public health misinformation and disinformation, and the opportunity to review the Health Act 1956 to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Te Aka Whai Ora**

15. The PHAC met with the Public and Population Health team in Te Aka Whai Ora led by Deputy Chief Executive, Selah Hart.
16. Selah Hart delivered a presentation on Te Aka Whai Ora's strategic direction and public health strategic road map. She also presented on her team's advice on obesity and diabetes and broader priorities, which cover mauri ora (healthy individuals), whānau Ora (healthy families) and wai ora (healthy environments).
17. The chair provided an update on the PHAC's work on food environments, including the qualitative interviews, narrative research and work with the Human Rights Commission. He also set out the PHAC's ideas for its future work programme. The committee and Te Aka Whai Ora guests agreed to develop their relationship and to share their ideas and work going forward, accounting for each other's capacity and priorities at the time.

#### **Actions:**

- PHAC secretariat to share list of stakeholders for qualitative interviews with the Public and Population Health team.
- PHAC secretariat to meet regularly with Public and Population Health team.

### **Next steps**

18. PHAC discussed actions for next steps.

#### **Actions:**

- PHAC secretariat to prepare paper for Shared Public Health Leadership Group on PHAC's ideas for its future work programme.

### **Next meeting**

19. The next PHAC meeting will be held in Wellington on Monday 17 July 2023.
20. Closing karakia by Jason Gurney.