

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with Wales Minister for Mental Health, Jayne Bryant on 30 April 2024

Date due to MO:	26 April 2024	Action required by:	30 April 2024
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Health Report number:	H2024039788
To:	Hon Matt Doocoy, Minister for Mental Health		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: <input type="checkbox"/> Māori Health Authority: <input type="checkbox"/>		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Robyn Shearer	Deputy Director-General, Clinical, Community and Mental Health Te Pou Whakakaha	s 9(2)(a)
Kiri Richards	Associate Deputy Director-General, Mental Health and Addiction, Clinical, Community and Mental Health Te Pou Whakakaha	s 9(2)(a)

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Meeting with Wales Minister for Mental Health, Jayne Bryant on 30 April 2024

Date due: 26 April 2024

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE

Health Report number: H2024039788

Details of meeting: On 30 April 2024, 8:00pm to 8:30pm NZT, you are meeting virtually with Hon Jayne Bryant, Member of the Senedd (MS), Wales Minister for Mental Health and Early Years.

Purpose of meeting: This meeting is an opportunity for you to discuss your strategic priorities for your respective Mental Health portfolios with Minister Bryant, as well as potential opportunities to learn from each other.

The proposed agenda has been shared with Hon Jayne Bryant and is as follows:

- Introductions
- Mental Health Strategic Priorities for Wales and New Zealand
- Potential opportunities where we can learn from each other (eg, child and youth mental health, addressing workforce challenges, suicide prevention, overdose prevention)
- Concluding comments.

There are several shared mental health, addiction and suicide prevention priorities and challenges across New Zealand's and Wales's approaches. Suggested talking points for your meeting are attached as **Appendix A**.

An official can be available to attend this meeting with you, at your request.

Comment: **Background of Wales**

- Wales has a population of 3.11 million. The Welsh Parliament, Senedd Cymru, can pass laws on issues for Wales that are not reserved to the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament, such as nuclear energy, foreign affairs and defence. The Welsh Government, Llywodraeth Cymru, the devolved government of Wales, is responsible for policy in health, education, economic development and local government.

Biography of Hon Jayne Bryant

- In 2016, Hon Jayne Bryant was elected as the Assembly Member for Newport West. She was appointed Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee in the Fifth Senedd, and sat on the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.
- Re-elected in 2021, she was nominated to Chair the Children, Young People and Education Committee in the Sixth Senedd and also sat on the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform and the Local Government and Housing Committee.
- Hon Jayne Bryant has chaired Cross-Party Groups on Diabetes, Preventing Child Sexual Abuse, Arts and Health and Suicide Prevention and acted as Vice Chair for the Cross-Party Groups on Dementia and Intergenerational Solidarity.
- She was appointed Minister for Mental Health and Early Years on 21 March 2024. While the Minister for Mental Health and Early Years portfolio has responsibilities for mental health and wellbeing, the Minister is not in the Cabinet and is accountable to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Eluned Morgan.
- As the Minister for Mental Health and Early Years, Hon Jayne Bryant's responsibilities related to mental health include:
 - Mental Health Services
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Dementia
 - Neurodiversity
 - Addiction services
 - Health impact of problem gambling
 - Substance misuse.

Recent priorities

- The Welsh Government has launched *All-Age Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024 to 2034*, a ten-year strategy to guide the work the government and their partners would do to improve mental health and wellbeing in Wales based on four guiding goals for:
 - people to have the knowledge, confidence and opportunities to protect and improve their mental health and wellbeing
 - all Government departments and services to work together
 - a connected system so everyone gets the right support when they first ask for help
 - all support for mental health to put the person first, to meet their needs in the right way, at the right time, without delays.
- The Welsh Government's new strategy and priorities demonstrate significant overlaps with New Zealand's strategic approaches, particularly around taking a whole-of-government and system approach.

Common interests

- You and Minister Bryant share a number of common interests, including:
 - *Child and youth mental wellbeing* – New Zealand is observing increasing levels of psychological distress in young people. There has been a recent focus on expanding primary-level and school-based support. The Ministry is currently developing the response to the Office of the Auditor-General’s recent review of youth mental health services, which calls for a cross-sector approach to improve our understanding of and response to young people’s needs, particularly young people interacting with multiple sectors. You may wish to ask about trends for young people’s mental wellbeing in Wales and efforts to improve integrated supports.
 - *Suicide prevention* – while there are encouraging signs that the rate of deaths by suicide may be slightly dropping in New Zealand, this area needs constant focus. The Ministry is currently developing the Suicide Prevention Action Plan for 2024-2029 which will have a strong focus on whole-of-government activity across prevention, intervention and postvention. You may wish to ask about the approach to suicide prevention in Wales, including current strategies and plans.
 - *Overdose prevention* – the number of deaths and amount of harm caused by opioid overdose in New Zealand is concerning. s 9(2)(f)(iv)
s 9(2)(f)(iv)
s 9(2)(f)(iv) This work is in its initial stages, so we welcome any learnings from overseas.
 - *Workforce development* – growing the mental health and addiction workforce is a priority in the face of global shortages. Health agencies are progressing a range of initiatives to grow the workforce, including a focus on psychiatric registrar places, clinical psychology and the peer support workforce. You may wish to ask about any innovative approaches in Wales to grow the workforce, utilise a broader range of workforces such as peer support, and make better use of digital supports to ease workforce pressures.
- This aide-mémoire discloses all relevant information.



Kiri Richards
Associate Deputy Director-General
Clinical, Community and Mental Health |
Te Pou Whakakaha
Date: 26 April 2024

PROACTIVELY RELEASED



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