



## 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 identify their key areas of interest. Email [library@health.govt.nz](mailto:library@health.govt.nz) to subscribe.

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### Public Health

#### [Addressing gender inequalities in national action plans on antimicrobial resistance](#)

"This publication provides a summary of the evidence on AMR and gender and proposes 20 recommendations for policy-makers to consider when developing, revising, implementing or monitoring their national action plans on AMR. Each recommendation should be tailored to individual country contexts and needs. Complementing the WHO's people-centred core package of

AMR interventions, the recommendations aim to support countries in addressing AMR through a more comprehensive, people-centred and gender-responsive approach.” *Source: WHO*

#### [Planning for health system recovery: guidance for application in countries](#)

“This WHO technical product aims to support countries to prioritize and mainstream health system recovery through effective planning as part of efforts to build health system resilience in support of universal health coverage, health security and socioeconomic development. While this document is developed for application in recovery context, it is adaptable to other health system strengthening and reform processes initiated in recognition of gaps in health system functions, not necessarily in the context of a shock event.” *Source: WHO*

#### [Tobacco and asthma](#)

“This document is the ninth in a series of Tobacco Knowledge Summaries and is prepared with the objective to summarize the current evidence on the association between tobacco use and asthma... This knowledge summary was prepared by World Health Organization in collaboration with the Forum of International Respiratory Societies, the Global Initiative for Asthma and The University of Tasmania.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Health of Older People**

#### [Let's get real older persons' option paper - full report](#)

“This report presents findings and options for updating Let’s get real. A wide range of knowledge and skills were highlighted as important for working with older persons, many of which are not currently in the Let’s get real framework or require tailored language to be relevant to older persons. The lack of up-to-date local frameworks, guides, or resources, and training and development opportunities was also highlighted. It is unlikely that the values and attitudes need updating; however, it is important to ensure the values and attitudes are reflected and woven through the knowledge and skills.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

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## **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

#### [Advancing Measure-Informed Care in Mental Health](#)

“This IHI Innovation Report describes how practices can improve the adoption of measurement-based and measure-informed strategies in mental health care, within their infrastructure and workforce constraints.” *Source: Institute for Healthcare Improvement*

#### [Investigating the impact of loneliness and social isolation on health](#)

“In collaboration with the University of Bristol, Amsterdam University Medical Centre and other academic partners, [Nesta] conducted new analyses to investigate the relationship between loneliness, social isolation and health. [They] took a broad definition of health, looking at measures of physical, general and mental health, as well as wellbeing.” *Source: Nesta (UK)*

### [Measuring social connectedness in OECD countries: A scoping review](#)

“Social connections refer to the ways that people interact with and relate to one another. Their role in shaping well-being is increasingly recognised by government, alongside an understanding of the role public policy plays in creating the structures that promote or hinder connectedness. To improve the evidence base on this emerging policy priority and lay the groundwork for full measurement recommendations, this paper reviews a selection of official surveys fielded in OECD countries to understand patterns in data collection, establish priority areas for harmonisation, and create an inventory of available measures.” *Source: OECD*

### [Parents Under Pressure: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Mental Health & Well-Being of Parents](#)

“This Surgeon General's Advisory highlights the stressors that impact the mental health and well-being of parents and caregivers, the critical link between parental mental health and children's long-term well-being, and the urgent need to better support parents, caregivers, and families.” *Source: Office of the Surgeon General (US)*

### [Young women's mental health: the significance of gender-based violence as a key driver in young women's disproportionate experiences of mental ill-health](#)

“The youth mental health crisis and gender-based violence (GBV) are both topics of current media attention. However, even though experiencing violence is a known risk factor for poor mental health, these issues are rarely spoken about together. The brief outlines the effects of GBV on the mental health of young women and advocates for the need for public health approaches to decrease the prevalence of both.” *Source: Prevention United (Australia)*

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## **Research & Technology**

### [Artificial Intelligence in Education and Mental Health for a Sustainable Future](#)

“The pandemic and overlapping global crises, including climate change, have increased attention to the importance of mental health and well-being as foundational for humans. Similarly, COVID-19 significantly exacerbated gaps in education, leaving children one to three years behind. Artificial intelligence (AI) has demonstrated potential to be transformative in addressing challenges in mental health and education and in supporting broader sustainability issues. However, there are well-founded concerns about AI regarding its potential to exacerbate inequity, further marginalizing underserved communities.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [Governing with artificial intelligence: Are governments ready?](#)

“Governments worldwide are exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can transform public governance and improve government services. The OECD's policy paper, “Governing with Artificial Intelligence: Are Governments Ready?” assesses the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating AI in the public sector. It outlines the significant benefits AI can bring alongside the risks and policy issues that must be managed.” *Source: OECD*

### [Preparing the NHS for the AI Era: A Digital Health Record for Every Citizen](#)

“A [Digital Health Record] would...help the NHS prepare for the AI era. Health data are what AI is trained and deployed on – and, increasingly, data are used to regulate AI. A DHR would support the development, adoption and spread of AI technologies in the NHS, supporting the drive to increase productivity.” *Source: Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (UK)*

#### [Implementation toolkit for accessible telehealth services](#)

“The Implementation toolkit for accessible telehealth services provides practical guidance to support governments, industry partners, health service providers and civil society groups in the use and implementation of the WHO-ITU Global standard for accessibility of telehealth services. The toolkit is the result of a collaboration between the World Health Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, and was developed in response to the growing challenges that persons with disabilities and other marginalized populations experience when accessing and using telehealth platforms around the world.: *Source: WHO*

#### [A blueprint for better international collaboration on evidence](#)

“Given the scarcity of good evidence, there are enormous gains to be had from leveraging the existing evidence better, and collaborating to build more. There are overlapping common interests and questions (e.g. how best to screen cancer, the best way to teach a child to read and write, and how to reduce recidivism). This report, commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), provides a blueprint for how these overlapping interests can be jointly addressed within the global evidence ecosystem. Developed by BIT and Nesta, with participation from the U.S., UK, Australian and Canadian governments, the blueprint offers practical recommendations for improving international collaboration on evidence.” *Source: The Behavioural Insights Team*

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## **Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity**

#### [Public Diners: The Idea Whose Time Has Come](#)

“This report puts forward the case for state-supported public diners. It argues that public diners are a way for the state to discharge its responsibility to make good food available to everyone. They are a way of making it easy for people to eat the food that keeps them nourished; they are a way of strengthening the social fabric and connection to place; and they are an investment in an intervention that can help deliver the necessary social, environmental and health outcomes.”

*Source: Nourish Scotland*

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## **Child & Youth Wellbeing**

#### [Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children, Youth, and Families](#)

“Ensuring every child is on an optimal trajectory to a healthy and productive adulthood is imperative for the nation's future. Investments in children and families improves child health, but also health equity, education outcomes, workforce productivity, and cost-effectiveness in public spending. Despite advances in health care, children, especially those from historically marginalized groups,

face rising rates of chronic diseases, obesity, and mental health challenges.” *Source: National Academies Press*

#### [From left behind to leading the way: a blueprint for transforming child health services in England](#)

“This report provides recommendations to ensure fair funding, a sustainable workforce, data and digital innovation, and to improve integrated care systems, community health services, emergency services, and primary care so they can safely meet children’s needs. These actions are an essential part of any transformation of the health system, and should take place alongside measures to prevent illness and address the wider determinants of health in childhood.” *Source: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK)*

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## **Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms**

#### [Independent investigation of the NHS in England](#)

Lord Darzi’s report on the state of the National Health Service in England. *Source: UK Government*

#### [Mirror, Mirror 2024: A Portrait of the Failing U.S. Health System: Comparing Performance in 10 Nations](#)

Mirror, Mirror 2024 is the Commonwealth Fund’s eighth report comparing the performance of health systems in selected countries [including New Zealand].

#### [Surgical hubs: key to tackling hospital waiting lists?](#)

“Elective surgical hubs play a pivotal role in NHS England’s plans to tackle the elective care backlog. Surgical hubs aim to improve productivity, reduce cancelled operations and enable people to be discharged from hospital more quickly. These specialised ‘hospitals within a hospital’ are dedicated to planned surgeries using ringfenced staff and resources. This effectively separates elective care into two pathways: a hub focusing on high-volume low-complexity (HVLC) cases, such as cataract removal, tonsillectomy or hip replacement, and the rest of theatre space freed up for more complex cases.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

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## **Primary Care**

#### [Realising the potential of primary care provider collaboratives](#)

“This report – informed by interviews with 20 leaders in collaboratives and two roundtables with wider partners, including ICB directors of primary care, involved in their formation – provides the first assessment of primary care provider collaboratives’ structures, their future ambitions and what is needed to support their future development.” *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

#### [Prescription for prevention: a new model of primary care](#)

“Prescription for Prevention sets out a new vision for primary care. Rather than simply calling for workforce growth or bigger GP appointment targets, it sets out a variety of interventions on estates, workforce composition, technology, regulation, and funding models. These are oriented around

three core principles: to intervene earlier, respond faster, and avoid decline – all supported by a new technology and funding infrastructure (which are covered in two supplementary papers).” *Source: Reform (UK)*

#### [Prescription for prevention: A digitally enabled model of primary care](#)

“This is a supplementary paper that is intended to be read alongside Prescription for prevention, which outlines the overarching framework for a modern, preventative primary care system. Better technology can open up more capacity for clinicians, enable earlier intervention in the progression of illnesses, and monitor patients more effectively to avoid preventable decline.” *Source: Reform (UK)*

#### [Prescription for prevention: supplementary paper – a new funding model for primary care](#)

“Learning from funding models in other countries, a future model of primary care contracting would need to reflect three key principles: incentivise outcomes rather than activity; focus on population groups rather than disease pathways; and enable long-term planning. This supplementary paper, intended to be read alongside the main report above, sets out different options for contracting services. It also suggests how, in the long term, budgets could be devolved and pooled to create a genuinely sustainable and preventive system of primary care.” *Source: Reform (UK)*

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## **Disability**

#### [Innovation in housing and living for people with disability: Environmental scan report](#)

“The Summer Foundation’s Innovation in housing and living for people with disability: Environmental scan report, has identified promising models of innovation that can create alternative options to group homes, spanning housing, support and technology. The report shows that while there are only pockets of innovation in Australia, other countries have managed to scale up innovative models of housing and living supports that are delivering better outcomes for people with disability, and are more cost-effective.” *Source: Summer Foundation (Australia)*

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## **Family Violence**

#### [Child to Parent Violence and Abuse: New Zealand’s Invisible Family Violence](#)

Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) encompasses a broad range of behaviours that children under the age of 18 display towards their parents/caregivers. The violence can continue into adulthood. This report explores research on CPVA and discusses the assumptions, beliefs and discourses that exist. A lack of awareness, knowledge and support means that if parents seek help, they are often blamed and the violence in their homes minimised. Contemporary research is indicating that there is an overrepresentation of CPVA within the neurodivergent community. *Source: Community Research (New Zealand)*

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## **Cancer**

### [Access to oncology medicines in EU and OECD countries](#)

“This working paper examines various aspects of inequalities in access to cancer medicines, covering key stages in a medicine's life cycle, from marketing authorization to reimbursement decisions and uptake in clinical practice. The analysis draws on original findings from the 2023 OECD Policy Survey on Cancer Care Performance. It also explores potential strategies to stimulate competition among oncology medicine producers, which could create significant budget headroom, allowing reinvestment in new cancer medicines that offer substantial clinical benefits to patients.” *Source: OECD*

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## COVID-19

### [Long-Term Health Effects of COVID-19: Disability and Function Following SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)

“Since the onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in early 2020, many individuals infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), have continued to experience lingering symptoms for months or even years following infection. Some symptoms can affect a person's ability to work or attend school for an extended period of time. Consequently, in 2022, the Social Security Administration requested that the National Academies convene a committee of relevant experts to investigate and provide an overview of the current status of diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of long-term health effects related to Long COVID. This report presents the committee conclusions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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