

Public Health Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: Tuesday 23 May 2024, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Location/platform: 133 Molesworth Street, Wellington

Attendees

PHAC Members: Kevin Hague (Chair), Associate Professor Jason Gurney, Associate Professor Ruth Cunningham and Beverly Te Huia.

Secretariat: Rebecca O'Connell, Sally Stewart, and Patience Davis.

Guests: Ross Bell, Ann Sears

Apologies: Professor Peter Crampton. Anna Jackson (Secretariat)

Opening of meeting

1. Opening karakia by Jason Gurney
2. Members asked to update declarations of interest. Updates were made for Jason, Ruth and Beverly.
3. Members agreed the minutes from the Public Health Advisory Committees (PHAC) meeting on 23 April 2024 were accurate and correct.
4. The PHAC secretariat and chair updated on key activities undertaken since the last meeting.
5. The PHAC secretariat updated on the Hauora Māori Advisory Committee (HMAC). Sally updated that she made contact with the HMAC secretariat and Rebecca reported that she had met with Brendon Baker, Manager of the secretariat team. There is a potential opportunity to invite the HMAC to a PHAC meeting.
6. On 20 May 2023 there was a meeting on % Vote Health with PHA, NPHS, and Health NZ Funding & Commissioning in attendance. It is unclear if there was a formal commission from the Minister to the health agencies. We understand Te Whatu Ora staff may have done some work in this area. Discussed that PHAC will want agreement of advice requested, and one consistent approach across agencies instead of multiple.

7. The PHAC secretariat were informed by the Web Design Team of webpage updates, that the public facing pages will change to make the PHAC more prominent and to fix some operational issues.

Actions:

- 23 May 2024 minutes and agenda to be published to PHAC website.
- Rebecca to contact staff in Te Whatu Ora working on this data and/or write an email from Kevin to Di Sarfarti and Margje Apa directly.
- Kevin to meet with Minister 25 June 2024.
- Kevin to meet with Brendon Baker and possibly invite HMAc to a PHAC meeting (in person preferred by PHAC).

Food Environments report

- The Chair reported that the PHAC Food Environments report release went well and was received well. The report was picked up by journalists including newsroom, Newshub/TV3, and Te Ao News.
- He then discussed that the issues highlighted in the report are not going away and future governments may invest toward the work highlighted in the report.
- The PHAC discussed making the Food Environments Report into an audio-book and potentially do a related podcast to ensure the report is more accessible.
- The secretariat made the PHAC aware of the typos present in the published food environments report and that these corrections will be made in time.

Actions:

- Seek Ben Heather's advice on pitching a radio interview to develop a podcast e.g the conversation.
- Investigate the costs of making the report into an audiobook (Whaikaha may have funding). Will need a voice artist.
- Anna and Rebecca to make changes to the Food Environments report, keeping these to a minimum (only things that come to light. Not a formal edit).

PHA Update (Ross Bell)

- The PHAC invited Ross Bell to the meeting to provide an update on the Minister's response to the PHAC work programme, his continued interest in

health agencies' 5+5 work, and the social investment work recently announced by Minister of Finance.

- Ross also provided an update on the process for new appointments to the PHAC including that the advertisement for the vacant roles in the PHAC committee is live.
- In response to the advertisements being live, the PHAC discussed who and what skill set would be of benefit and needed in the PHAC committee. Members highlighted need for Pacific health and health economist expertise.
- Ross Bell also provided other PHA and sector updates which included the appointment of Lester Levy as the new Chair for Health New Zealand
- Sally Stewart informed the committee that she will be leaving the secretariat to support her home team in the PHA on urgent work and the committee thanked her for the work she had done. Along with this it was announced that the Public Health Medicine registrar is to start in July 2024 to support the secretariat with the work on determinants of health.
- Ross Bell advised that the Ministry's focus currently was the structural change process and how these changes would impact the Ministry.

Actions:

- Ross to obtain advice that went up to the Minister on the Food Report.

Possible topics and speakers on social determinants of health for PHAC meetings

- The secretariat presented a table of potential speakers for the PHAC to consider. The PHAC discussed those on the list and suggested others.
- Committee members presented the idea of scheduling in speakers in line with the timeframes and development of the report, and to have multiple speakers present within one meeting.
- The secretariat can meet with stakeholders themselves.
- The PHAC said they would like to hear about what work is happening in the Ministry of Health and Health NZ in terms of monitoring determinants, to ensure this work is not duplicated.

Actions:

- Secretariat to update the list of possible speakers for PHAC Meetings following discussion.
- Secretariat to break down where speakers best align in the project and align these speakers with the timeframes for drafting sections of the report.

Place-based initiatives

- Ann Sears, a Public Health Physician, attended the PHAC meeting to present on social investment approaches, place-based initiatives and determinants of health.

Actions:

- Update draft content in report and develop a document on language/definitions based on this presentation.

Social determinants of Health

- Sally discussed and went through the project brief and changes to the timelines in light of resourcing changes. PHAC agreed to the scope of the project brief and the revised timeline.
- Sally then discussed an outline of the draft report in depth.
- This led to the PHAC discussing the structure and direction of the report, which included discussing the NHC report (25 years ago) and how the PHAC can use this to build on.

Actions:

- Finalise Project Brief
- Secretariat to continue working to develop the report outline and draft content.

Next steps

- The importance of following the same structure and apply it across the report when we are developing the report.

Actions:

- PHAC secretariat to continue developing the report.

Next meeting

- The next PHAC meeting will be held online on 20 June 2024.
- Closing karakia by Beverly Te Huia.

