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 to subscribe.

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Equity

"You need to get in early, as soon as you see people struggling": Understanding the life-course journey

"This report captures the voices of children and young people who shared what's important to them, what gets in the way, and what helps - at different stages of their life journey from babies through to young adults. Their insights and perspectives were sought primarily to inform the review of the Child

and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, which sets out a shared understanding of what's important for children and young people, and what is needed to create an environment where they can all thrive."
Source: Mana Mokopuna (New Zealand)

[Health inequality monitoring: harnessing data to advance health equity](#)
"This is a comprehensive and contemporary resource for health inequality monitoring, consolidating foundational and emerging knowledge in the field. It aims to support the expansion and strengthening of health inequality monitoring practices across different applications around the world, in service of the broader goal of advancing health equity." *Source: World Health Organization*

[OECD toolkit to combat homelessness](#)
"With over 2.2 million people experiencing homelessness in a given year, the issue remains a persistent challenge in OECD and EU countries. Organised around nine building blocks, this Toolkit helps policy makers design and implement strategies to combat homelessness. It provides guidance in policy design, in how to engage stakeholders, strengthen the evidence base, and embed systematic monitoring and evaluation into homelessness policy making." *Source: OECD*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

[Health at a Glance: Asia/Pacific 2024](#)
"This eighth edition of Health at a Glance Asia/Pacific presents a set of key indicators of health status, the determinants of health, health care resources and utilisation, health care expenditure and financing and quality of care across 27 Asia-Pacific countries and territories. It also provides a series of dashboards to compare performance across countries and territories, and a thematic analysis on the burden of mental health and neurological conditions in the Asia-Pacific region. Drawing on a wide range of data sources, it gives readers a clear understanding of the factors that affect the health of populations and the performance of health systems in these countries and territories." *Source: OECD*

[Health system effects of economy-wide inflation: How resilient are European health systems?](#)
The recent cost-of-living crisis has drawn attention to the effects of economy-wide price growth on health systems, but there is little known about how different health system actors are affected by, or how they can be made more resilient to, the effects of economy-wide inflation. *Source: European Observatory*

[Bringing care closer to home: three questions that need answering](#)
"Shifting care from hospitals into community services is central to the government's plan for fixing the NHS. Previous administrations made similar pledges, yet a real shift from hospital to home has never fully materialised. Why is this, and how can we avoid failure this time? Sarah Reed and Thea Stein set out three unresolved questions that the government needs to answer to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past." *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

[The collaboration playbook: A leader's guide to cross-sector collaboration](#)

"The challenges facing our societies and economies today are so large and complex that, in many cases, cross-sector collaboration is not a choice, but an imperative. Yet collaboration remains elusive for many, often being put into the 'too hard' category. This playbook offers guidance on how collaboration opportunities can be seized successfully and rise to the challenges." *Source: Government Outcomes Lab (UK)*

The state of integration at place: Exploring how and why place is the 'engine room' of integration
"Integration at place is crucial to meet the health and care needs of England's communities. At a time when significant challenges face our public services, most recently detailed in Lord Darzi's investigation of the NHS in England, a focus on the places that matter to people and communities offers a path forward. Bringing together all the organisations that impact a local population's health and wellbeing to work more closely and seamlessly is paramount to achieving this." *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

Fairer funding for general practice in England: what's the problem, why is it so hard to fix, and what should the government do?
"General practice funding is inequitable: the Carr-Hill formula, which decides the distribution of funding, is outdated and fails to take account of socioeconomic deprivation. This briefing, produced in collaboration with the Health Equity Evidence Centre, proposes replacing Carr-Hill with a modern, needs-based formula." *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

NHS and life sciences industry partnerships: collaborating to improve care
"There is growing national interest in the potential for wider and deeper partnerships between the NHS and life sciences sector. The UK life sciences industry is a significant asset and there is a sense that more could be done to bring its strengths together with the NHS to improve both the nation's health and economic prosperity. This report examines how the NHS can collaborate with industry partners in the life sciences sector by exploring four case studies of collaborative working projects between NHS organisations and pharmaceutical companies (a well-established and codified way for the NHS and industry to work in partnership)." *Source: King's Fund (UK)*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

Libraries and Well-Being: A Case Study from The New York Public Library
"This white paper explores the impact of public libraries on individual and community well-being through the lens of positive psychology. It results from a collaboration between The New York Public Library's Strategy and Public Impact team and the Humanities and Human Flourishing Project at the University of Pennsylvania's Positive Psychology Center. Using the PERMA model, the report identifies three stages through which libraries foster flourishing: creating foundations for well-being, supporting core elements like Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, and Accomplishment, and promoting personal development. The findings are based on a 2023 system-wide patron survey and qualitative focus groups, emphasizing the role of libraries in enhancing stability, connection, and individual growth." *Source: The New York Public Library*

Mental Health in Education Report

"The National Mental Health in Education Survey has been conducted annually since 2018 as part of Beyond Blue's mental health in education initiative, Be You. This year the survey gathered insights from 2630 educators working in early learning services and schools, including those studying to become educators. It captures the perceptions and observations of their own mental health in addition to their colleagues, and children and young people in their care." *Source: Beyond Blue (Australia)*

[Placing social connection at the heart of public policy in the United Kingdom and Australia](#)
"This report summarises the discussions and outcomes of a roundtable on the Future of Social Connection held at University College London, which brought together recognised UK and Australian expert stakeholders on social connection, including psychiatrists and psychologists, social scientists, community organisers, campaigners, advocates, and policymakers. Together, they reflected on the best available academic and community evidence, and collaboratively charted innovative, impactful and sustainable strategies to combat loneliness strengthen social connection into the future." *Source: University of Sydney, University College London*

[Chronic physical health conditions and the mental health and wellbeing of First Nations people](#)
"This paper explores the intersection of physical and mental health among First Nations people, focusing on chronic disease management and social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB). It evaluates various health programs and policies, including the Integrated Team Care Program, the Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program, and digital health initiatives such as the AIMhi Stay Strong App which aim to improve health outcomes through culturally safe, community-driven care. The findings show the importance of cultural connection, person-centred care, and multidisciplinary approaches in managing multimorbidity." *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[Weaving health for families, communities and societies in the Western Pacific Region (2025-2029): working together to improve health and well-being and save lives](#)
"This document sets out thematic priorities for WHO's work in the Western Pacific Region for the next five years to improve health and well-being, and save lives." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Beyond the decade of healthy ageing: extending benefits across the life course. Report of the meeting held virtually, 9-10 June 2022](#)
"World Health Organization (WHO)'s new area of work on the life course was launched with this kick-off meeting on 9–10 June 2022. The meeting was held virtually and was attended by 118 participants over the two days from all six WHO regions and representing a wide variety of stakeholders. The meeting included 30 speakers from a range of national and international perspectives, including life course centres, WHO staff, international agencies, civil society and activists. The new area of work is led by the Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing (MCA) within its cross-cutting work on healthy trajectories, concentrating on connecting healthy development with healthy ageing across the life course." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Research, Technology, & Innovation

[Trust and confidence in technology-enabled care: A joint analysis with Q](#)
"Digital and data-driven technology has great potential to help the NHS meet the challenges it faces. Yet realising the benefits of technology-enabled care can be difficult, and progress has been slower than hoped. Lord Ara Darzi's report on the state of the NHS in England and the Prime Minister's response highlight the urgent need to make progress in digitising NHS services. It is therefore vital to understand the factors that influence the adoption of technology in health and care." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Mixed-method evaluation of implementing artificial intelligence in chest diagnostics for lung disease](#)
"There are claims AI could reduce pressure on teams and reduce overall health care costs, including through its use in chest imaging for diagnosing lung disease and cancer. However, with little real-world evidence in this area, the RSET team are conducting an evaluation of the deployment, procurement, and early implementation of AI for x-ray or CT scans. These are the phase 1 findings. They have not yet been peer reviewed." *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

[Diagnosis in the Era of Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence](#)
"To explore the opportunities and challenges of using artificial intelligence (AI) and digital health technologies to improve diagnostic processes and outcomes, the National Academies Forum on Advancing Diagnostic Excellence hosted a public workshop in July 2024. Speakers highlighted the role of these technologies throughout the diagnostic process and their impact on the patient experience, including to gain understanding of a patient's onset of symptoms, to improve information gathering and patient-clinician communication, and to support clinical decision making. Discussions also emphasized the importance of ensuring these technologies do not perpetuate existing health disparities." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Understanding and Addressing Misinformation About Science](#)
"Misinformation is commonly perceived as a matter of bad actors maliciously misleading the public, but misinformation about science arises both intentionally and inadvertently and from a wide range of sources. Understanding and Addressing Misinformation About Science characterizes the nature, scope, and impacts of this phenomenon, and provides guidance on interventions, policies, and future research. This report is a comprehensive assessment of the available evidence and reflects a systems view of the problem given the broader historical and contemporary contexts that shape the lived experiences of people and their relationships to information. The report aims to illuminate the impacts of misinformation about science and potential solutions across a diversity of individual peoples, communities, and societies." *Source National Academies Press*

[Guidance for human genome data collection, access, use and sharing](#)
"The ethical, legal, and equitable sharing of human genomic data is critical to advancing global health research and ensuring fair access to the benefits of genomics. The WHO's new document outlines a comprehensive set of globally applicable principles designed to guide stakeholders in the responsible collection, use, and sharing of human genome data. This document serves as a key resource to navigate complex issues surrounding data governance, with the aim of fostering transparency, promoting equity, and safeguarding individual and collective rights. These principles are intended to support the implementation of best practices across diverse settings, thereby

enhancing the global capacity for genomic research and its translation into health benefits for all."
Source: World Health Organization

AI horizons: shaping ethical technologies for human dignity

"This report synthesises key findings and recommendations from the IEEE AuDIITA Workshop held at Swinburne University of Technology in November 2024. The workshop examined critical intersections between artificial intelligence, human dignity, and ethical technology development through four key sessions focusing on: defence applications, domestic violence prevention, AI trigger points, and future directions." *Source: IEEE*

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Health of Older People

Preventing and Treating Dementia: Research Priorities to Accelerate Progress

"The National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke asked the National Academies to convene an expert committee to examine and assess the current state of biomedical research and recommend research priorities to advance the prevention and treatment of AD/ADRD. Preventing and Treating Dementia outlines these research priorities and recommends strategies to overcome barriers to progress." *Source: National Academies Press*

Improving social care for people with dementia

"The number of people living with dementia in the UK is rising. Even if treatments can be developed quickly, the social care system needs to change in order to better support the growing numbers of people affected. This new report and summary sets out the current challenges and makes recommendations about what needs to change." *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

Improving the Detection of Cognitive Impairment and the Pathway to Treatment

"RAND researchers conducted a series of studies to understand factors associated with brain health, take-up of cognitive testing by older adults, and continued care. The researchers used multiple approaches to identify predictors of cognitive impairment; gauge the short- and long-term benefits of early detection and advanced planning; understand patients' demand for screening, diagnosis, and treatment; and project the capacity of the U.S. health care system to provide care to cognitively impaired individuals. This brief describes the findings of each study and the policy implications for decisionmakers to consider when trying to improve brain health and care." *Source: RAND*

Our future homes: housing that promotes wellbeing and community for an ageing population

"This report seeks to understand the market in England for older people's housing today and into the future. It outlines the enablers for older people when seeking to move into appropriate or specialist housing. It also looks at the opportunities and benefits of broadening provision and choice for older people, including continuing to live in their own home if they wish to do so. It aims to develop a viable and implementable approach for enhancing choice for older people in the housing market." *Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government*

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Workforce

[Artificial Intelligence and the health workforce: Perspectives from medical associations on AI in health](#)

"Healthcare has progressed through advancements in medicine, leading to improved global life expectancy. Nevertheless, the sector grapples with increasing challenges such as heightened demand, soaring costs, and an overburdened workforce. Factors contributing to health workforce strain include ageing populations, increasing burden from non-communicable and chronic diseases, healthcare providers' burnout, and evolving patient expectations. Artificial Intelligence (AI) could potentially transform healthcare by alleviating some of these pressures. But AI in health poses risks to health providers through potential workforce disruption – with changing roles requiring adapted skills with some functions subject to automation. Striking a balance between innovation and safeguards is imperative." *Source: OECD*

[Addressing Workforce Challenges Across the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care](#)

"The National Academies Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders hosted a public workshop to address the workforce needs and challenges across the behavioral health continuum. Experts shared insights on improving infrastructure to enhance access and quality of mental health services with a focus on advancing health equity. Discussions highlighted structural and policy challenges, care integration, and the potential role of technology and innovation to tackle workforce shortages. This proceedings highlights the presentations and discussions that occurred at the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

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Cancer

[Tackling the impact of cancer on health, the economy and society](#)

" This report demonstrates the strong economic and societal case for investing in cancer policies. Microsimulation modelling for 51 countries (including OECD, European Union and G20 countries), shows that stronger action on cancer would yield broad benefits. If all countries did as well as the best performing country in cancer care, a quarter of premature cancer deaths would be prevented. Addressing key cancer risk factors – including tobacco, harmful alcohol use, unhealthy diet, air pollution, overweight and physical inactivity – would lower cancer rates and health expenditure, while also increasing workforce productivity. Co-benefits of such policies include improving road safety and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Vaccination for human papillomavirus will protect future generations from cervical cancer." *Source: OECD*

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Public Health

[Workforce development for effective management of zoonotic diseases](#)

"The "Workforce development for effective management of zoonotic diseases: an operational tool of the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide (WFD OT)" focuses on strengthening multisectoral workforce competencies and other areas of the enabling environment. This comprehensive guide provides

practical steps, resources, and tools to enhance your workforce's capabilities. Outputs of the tool are integrated into existing workforce plans for these to be financed, coordinated, and implemented."
Source: World Health Organization

[Role of social protection in reducing the burden of public health and social measures during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
"To date, little is known at the global level about the nature and effectiveness of the social protection responses aimed at reducing the socioeconomic burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health and social measures (PHSM) through existing, scaled up or new social protection policies and programmes, in particular when the impacts are viewed through the lens of the social determinants of health. This scoping review provides a snapshot of the evidence about the implementation of social protection measures during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the need for greater sensitivity among development actors and health leaders to ensure that emergency responses are equitable and balanced when implementing PHSM to avoid additional strains on affected communities and countries, depending on the scale of their implementation." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Mitigating Exposure to Airborne Diseases for Public Transportation Passengers and Employees](#)
"Mitigating Exposure to Airborne Diseases for Public Transportation Passengers and Employees: Executive Summary, a joint publication from TRB's Transit Cooperative Research Program and National Cooperative Highway Research Program, aims to provide public transportation agencies with practical strategies to reduce the risk of airborne disease transmission, safeguarding the health and well-being of both employees and passengers." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Review of Evidence on Alcohol and Health](#)
"Congress tasked the National Academies with convening an expert committee to independently review the evidence on the relationship between moderate alcohol consumption and eight health outcomes including obesity, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. The resulting report, Review of Evidence on Alcohol and Health, presents the committee's findings and conclusions and does not offer dietary recommendations or advice." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Building strong foundations to support primary prevention of violence against women](#)
"Governments play an important role in building, resourcing and supporting the foundations across society that support whole-of-population strategies to end violence against women. This policy report outlines key actions governments can take to ensure that the essential foundations to support this long-term work are in place. It translates the complex concept of prevention infrastructure into a concise, action-oriented format." *Source: Our Watch (Australia)*

[Community protection for the mpox response: a comprehensive set of actions](#)
"This brief sets out a comprehensive set of actions needed at national, sub-national and local levels for community protection. As set out in the World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience framework (1), community protection refers to person- and community-centred actions that protect those at risk or affected by the health and social impacts of mpox (2). These actions align with the WHO Strategic framework for enhancing prevention and control of mpox (3), the Mpox global strategic preparedness and response plan (4) and the risk

communication and community engagement pillar of the Mpox continental preparedness and response plan for Africa (5). This brief is relevant to countries affected, as well as to those in related preparedness phases." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing for mpox: interim guidance, 27 November 2024](#)
"This is an updated version of the interim guidance for surveillance, case investigation and contact-tracing for mpox published on 20 May 2024. It applies to all countries." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Disability

[Health equity for persons with disabilities: guide for action](#)
"An estimated 1.3 billion people globally experience significant disability. This figure has grown over the last decade and will continue to rise due to demographic and epidemiological changes. In 2022, the World Health Organization launched the Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities. This report demonstrated that many persons with disabilities are still being left behind. Experiencing persistent health inequities, persons with disabilities die earlier, they have poorer health and functioning, and they are more affected by health emergencies than the general population. These differences are largely associated with unjust factors both inside and beyond the health sector and are avoidable." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Pathways to possibilities: harnessing the economic potential of people with disability](#)
"This report explores the economic potential of people with disability in Australia and offers four key commitments for employers to foster a more inclusive and equitable workplace. The report highlights the significant untapped talent pool represented by people with disability and argues that businesses benefit from embracing disability inclusion, leading to greater productivity, staff retention, and a better reputation." *Source: Settlement Services International*

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[A blueprint to halve obesity in the UK: Comparing over 30 policies to help reduce the prevalence of obesity](#)
"A toolkit to support the design, implementation and scaling of dietary health policies that are most likely to work." *Source: Nesta (UK)*

[An umbrella review of the evidence on structural prevention policies and prevention of overweight and obesity among children](#)
"The report describes and summarises current evidence of the effects of national and global prevention policies with the aim of contributing to the prevention of childhood overweight and obesity. The report is based on a total of 70 systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses and 54 grey publications." *Source: Nordic Cancer Union*

[Using Social and Behaviour Change in the Prevention of Overweight and Obesity in School-aged Children](#)
"This guide details ways in which social and behaviour change can be integrated into UNICEF nutrition programmes on the prevention of overweight and obesity in school-aged children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years. This guide has been developed to support UNICEF staff and partners, particularly teams working on the prevention of overweight and obesity in school-aged children. The guide is also designed for UNICEF social and behaviour change staff, to help increase their awareness of workstreams where social and behaviour change can add value to UNICEF's overweight and obesity prevention work." *Source: UNICEF*

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Health Quality & Safety

[Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks for maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response](#)
"The Manual aims to serve as an essential tool to guide the development of legal or regulatory Maternal and Perinatal Death and Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) frameworks, enabling countries to establish a robust and accountable system for systematically reviewing and addressing all maternal and perinatal deaths. By fostering a comprehensive, rights-based approach, it aims to enable quality improvements, reduce preventable deaths, and strengthen interventions to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Global surveillance and monitoring system for substandard and falsified medical products: activity report, August 2017-December 2021](#)
"Access to safe, effective medical products is paramount for global health. This report describes a critical role of WHO in ensuring the quality and safety of medical products, particularly in LMIC. The report signals the alarming rise in the number of reported incidents of SF medical products, including a wide range of essential medicines, such as antimicrobials, oncology medicines and vaccines. During the period covered, 877 incidents were recorded, with an average annual increase of 36.3%. The potential impact on increase in antimicrobial resistance cannot be understated." *Source: World Health Organization*

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