

Public Health Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: 17 October 2024, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Location/platform: online 133 Molesworth Street, Thorndon, Wellington

Attendees

PHAC Members: Kevin Hague (Chair), Jason Gurney, Ruth Cunningham, Peter Crampton, Beverly Te Huia, Tai Sopoaga, Caroline McElnay

Secretariat: Rebecca O'Connell, Anna Jackson, Patience Davis, and Hannah Quigan

Guests: Kitty Truell, Andrew Old, Ross Bell

Apologies: Nil

Opening of meeting

1. Opening karakia by Beverly.
2. Kevin welcomed new members of the PHAC, Caroline McElnay and Tai Sopoaga, with roundtable of introductions from the committee and secretariat members.

General Business

3. Kevin went over the general process and overview of the day.
4. No changes were made to the register of interests and were agreed to by the committee.
5. Minutes were agreed to and adopted as true and correct.
6. Kevin gave an update on his meeting with the Minister, and noted the main conversation was the SDoH report and its progress, along with further approaches to getting the data for the public health investment project.
7. Correspondence with Health NZ on the effectiveness of spend on public health was raised and noted email received from the TWO CEO's office acknowledging previous correspondence, and email requesting peer review which they agreed they would provide.

8. Contracting for Hauora Māori expertise is nearly complete. Expect the contractor to attend November PHAC meeting.
9. Discussion of possible attendance at two conferences: Hāpai Te Hauora Oranga Whenua Oranga Tangata symposium in Wellington on 26 and 27 November and Australian Public Health association conference in Canberra. Australian conference not seen as priority. Committee members support the PHAC attending Hāpai te Hauora hui and Beverly agrees to attend this on behalf of the PHAC to give a summary of PHAC role and work programme.
10. Discussion on the Cabinet circular.

Actions:

- Secretariat to support Beverly attending Hāpai Te Hauora symposium.
- Patience to circulate the Cabinet circular.
- Send the Minister's letter on PHAC work programme to new members.
- Support IT for Caroline.

PHA update on secretariat

11. Ross updated the committee:
 - a. The new Advisor is to start on the 21 October 2024.
 - b. Noted that interviews were undertaken last week and in the process of finalising candidates for the Principal Policy Analyst role.
 - c. The public health registrar will start in November and possibility of additional registrars in 2025.
 - d. Confirmed with the committee that the secretariat roles would be solely for the PHAC.
12. Confirmation that the public health registrar will start on 25 November.

Actions:

- Ross to inform PHAC once recruitment of the Principal Policy Analyst is finalised.

Social determinants of Health

13. The secretariat provided a brief overview of the history and current version of the SDoH draft report to provide context for the new members. The PHAC

agreed to provide feedback on the draft report when the revised version was shared by the secretariat the following week.

Actions:

- Send members updated SDoH report on Thursday 24 October to get feedback/comments and any changes by Friday 1 November.

PHA and health sector update

14. Andrew Old provided the committee with an update covering:
 - a. Te Whatu Ora reset– PHA is involved in supporting the reset with an oversight role.
 - b. Social investment work – this work is happening at pace and a significant focus of the Government, driven by the Minister of Finance/Minister of Social investment.
 - c. Progress on 5 by 5 agenda – Minister asked the Ministry to identify opportunities to improve and take action in key areas, including nutrition, physical activity and alcohol.
 - d. Budget 25 – Kevin and Beverly both asked questions and Andrew provided answers for them both (this was conducted without the secretariat due to budget sensitivities).

Actions:

- N/A

Social determinants of Health continued

1. The secretariat presented a summary of the SdoH project timeline. The committee agreed that the current secretariat should complete a draft of the first third of the report (introductory chapters and introduction subsections of root sources chapters) by the end of December 2024. The new permanent secretariat would complete the rest of the root sources chapters (data and interventions) and the remaining chapters, including incorporating changes made following hauora Māori, Pacific and other expert input, including to the front third of the report.
2. The committee and secretariat discussed what a Pacific contractor peer review will look like and concluded that this would be confirmed later. Ideas put forward on who to approach.
3. The secretariat noted that key informant interviews have started but were paused due to the change in timeframe to complete the effectiveness of the spend on public health project.

4. The secretariat continued to discuss the structure of the report, how to have Te Ao Māori and Pacific peoples' perspectives throughout the report, the root sources of health and wellbeing, and tested her thinking with members. Beverly confirmed that she would like to do the section on colonisation.
5. Committee discussed the approach for the new secretariat and PH registrar to progress the key informant interviews in the new year and that these would be expanded to include informants who could comment from community perspective.

Actions:

- Continue to work on report, particularly the front sections and introductory sections of root sources chapters.
- Secretariat to update project timeline and accountabilities to reflect committee's expectations.
- Secretariat to provide a budget breakdown for the 2024/2025 financial year.
- Secretariat to make an approach to a possible Pacific contractor.

Effectiveness of spend on public health

6. The secretariat went through the final draft of the report page-by-page and the members provided feedback and comments.
7. Committee confirmed that they are happy with the report. The secretariat will check if any peer-review received from Te Whatu Ora. Kevin will work with the secretariat to make final changes and sign-out.
8. Jason mentioned that he would be like the committee to undertake part two of this work with a health economist if possible.

Actions:

- The secretariat to make final changes and work with Kevin for sign-out and send to the Minister.

Next steps

9. Meetings for 2025 were discussed, noting continuing the pattern of alternative online and in-person meetings and preferred days for members.
10. Kevin closed with karakia.

Actions:

- Dates for next year's meetings on Thursdays starting in February with in-person (January as option if needed online).

Next meeting: 21 November in person