



A Collection of Recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government Reports

Issue 132, 2025, March-April

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

[Empowering Pasifika Communities: Strengthening Wellbeing Through Community-Led Solutions](#)

"This report summarises the Pasifika Suicide Prevention Community Fund initiatives that Le Va administered from April 2020 to May 2024, with a focus on prevention activity and implementation strengths, informed by the seven critical elements for the successful implementation of community-based suicide prevention initiatives for Pasifika peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand (Faleafa et al., 2021). The purpose of this report is not only to highlight the key successes of these initiatives, but also to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of the diverse communities, partners, and stakeholders involved. Throughout the period covered, these initiatives have played a crucial role in advancing suicide prevention efforts within Pasifika communities, providing valuable insights into culturally responsive, family centred, clinically safe and sustainable approaches that enhance

mental health and wellbeing. By sharing these findings, we aim to acknowledge and uplift the resilience and strength of Pasifika peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand, ensuring that the work done within these communities is recognised and celebrated.” *Source: Le Va*

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnership and engagement framework

“This framework outlines actionable steps that government staff can take to effectively plan, engage, and partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders. The framework covers key concepts, when and how to engage, building trust and cultural safety.” *Source: Department of Health and Aged Care*

Close the gap campaign report 2025: Agency, leadership, reform: ensuring the survival, dignity and wellbeing of First Nations Peoples

“This annual report describes the ongoing challenges and tangible solutions needed to close the health and wellbeing gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The report makes recommendations across a range of areas, including calling on the Australian Government to implement the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's 2024 Closing the Gap review and the four priority areas in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This year's themes of agency and self-determination, leadership and solidarity, and reform and transformation underscore the pivotal role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and communities continue to play.” *Source: Lowitja Institute*

How racism affects health.

“A healthy society depends on everyone having the building blocks of good health: secure and decent housing, a good job with enough pay, high-quality education and healthy neighbourhoods. These foundations give people a solid frame to withstand life's shocks and challenges. Right now, too many people do not have equal access to the building blocks of health largely because of where they live and their socioeconomic background. People living in the most deprived 10% of areas in England can expect to live between 7.7 (women) and 9.4 (men) fewer years than people in the least deprived.

This report finds large and unacceptable variations in people's experience of the building blocks of health according to ethnicity.

A credible agenda for improving health must address the impact of unequal access to the building blocks of health on different communities and recognise racism as a key health determinant.

Tackling these deep-rooted inequalities is crucial for a fairer, healthier society.” *Source: The Health Foundation*

Determining Health: Food justice practice brief

“This practice brief aims to support the public health community to take action to advance food justice. It presents public health strategies to address food system related inequities and advance food justice at different scales. This resource builds on the Determining Health: Food systems issue brief, also produced by the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH), that examines the health impacts of food systems in Canada.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health.*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

Health in the UK after Brexit: Moving apart or stuck together?

“The Health and International Relations Monitor project, supported by the Health Foundation, explores how the dramatic changes to the UK's international relations following Brexit have affected

health – from the rupture in trading and institutions, to the new ability of the UK to regulate everything from medicine to migration in a way that differs from its neighbours.

This report, the last in the series, provides updates based on data and legal analysis for the issues of medicines supply, the migration of staff, and procurement, where the new reality after exiting the single market continues to be linked to rapid change.

It also looks at four less-studied areas of crucial importance to health where Brexit has meant a new course for the UK: artificial intelligence (AI), funding, professional qualifications and patients moving across borders. We held roundtables in London and Austria with industry, regulators and experts to explore AI regulation in depth.” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

How Do Health System Features Influence Health System Performance?

“International comparisons are an important tool for benchmarking health system performance, shedding light on health systems’ relative strengths and weaknesses. The present work examines how different groups of countries sharing similar health system characteristics perform relative to others. To make valid and useful comparisons, health systems may be grouped in ways that resonate with policy makers in countries and reflect the policy question at hand. The report specifically addresses three key policy areas: the influence of the overall design of health systems on performance, the role of financial incentives to providers and the role of a strong primary care system. The report shows that there is no indication that any one group of health systems would systematically outperform another. It further provides evidence that there is room for health systems sharing the same broad characteristics to improve performance by borrowing elements from other systems. Rather than engaging in large-scale system reforms, focusing on more targeted policy changes may be a better avenue for improving performance.” *Source: OECD*

From research to reality: Research and innovation in the NHS as key to enabling the 10-Year Plan

“This report, commissioned by Wellcome and conducted by RAND Europe, explores how research and innovation can be a key driver for transforming the National Health Service (NHS) and enabling its 10-Year Plan. It argues that research and innovation constitute a crucial 'fourth shift,' alongside shifts towards community care, prevention, and digitization, to improve care quality, patient outcomes, and the sustainability of NHS services. The report examines the impact of research and innovation on the NHS, patients, the economy, and society, while identifying support mechanisms necessary for fostering a research-and-innovation-active NHS, including workforce development, data accessibility, infrastructure, funding, governance, collaboration, and patient engagement.” *Source: RAND Corporation*

Getting the Public on Side: How to Make Reforms Acceptable by Design

“Public acceptability is a crucial condition for the successful implementation of reforms. The challenges raised by the green, digital and demographic transitions call for urgent and ambitious policy action. Despite this, governments often struggle to build sufficiently broad public support for the reforms needed to promote change. Better information and effective public communication have a key role to play. But policymakers cannot get the public to choose the side of reform without a proper understanding of people's views and how they can help strengthen the policy process. Perceptual and behavioural data provide an important source of insights on the perceptions, attitudes and preferences that constitute the "demand-side" of reform. The interdisciplinary OECD Expert Group on New Measures of the Public Acceptability of Reforms was set up in 2021 to take stock of these insights and explore their potential for improving policy. This report reflects the outcomes of the Expert Group's work. It looks at and assesses (i) the available data and what they can tell policymakers about people's views; (ii) the analytical frameworks through which these data are interpreted; and (iii) the policy tools through which considerations of public acceptability are integrated into the reform process.” *Source: OECD*

Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2024: Results from the British Social Attitudes survey

“The British Social Attitudes survey offers a unique look at how the British public are feeling about their health service. Carried out every year since 1983 by the National Centre for Social Research, it provides a barometer for understanding not only how people feel the NHS runs nowadays, but also what is driving their satisfaction (or, rather more accurately in recent years, dissatisfaction); how they rate individual services; and what they make of social care. The 2024 survey, documenting the lowest levels of satisfaction with the NHS on record, provides context to a health service facing profound challenges and offers a clear baseline from which we can understand how the public are feeling at the start of a new government.” *Source: The Kings Fund and Nuffield Trust*

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Mental Health & Addiction

Alcohol Harm Across the Drinking Spectrum

The Behavioural Insights Team worked with Alcohol Change UK to run an online survey on a nationally representative sample of 4,236 adults between the 18th of November and 2nd of December 2024, to explore the extent of alcohol harm across different levels of drinking. Five categories of consumption were used to group the sample: non-drinkers, past drinkers, low risk drinkers, hazardous drinkers, and harmful drinkers. The findings highlight the associations between alcohol consumption and various health-related outcomes, particularly at higher consumption levels. At a population level, alcohol consumption is associated with increased healthcare service use and decreased workplace attendance. The relationships between alcohol and health outcomes are not uniform across demographic groups, with stronger associations observed among men and participants with lower socioeconomic status. *Source: The Behavioural Insights Team*

2024 Polyfest Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey: Youth insights report

“Le Va, a Pasifika-led organisation dedicated to mental health and wellbeing, conducted a survey at Polyfest2024 to gain insights into the mental health needs and support preferences of New Zealand youth aged 16-24years. The survey aimed to explore key factors affecting youth mental health, identify preferred coping strategies and determine youth-preferred support platforms. Responses from 1,150 participants highlighted critical mental health and social needs among Pasifika, Māori, and other diverse youth populations. The self-administered survey, conducted at ASB Polyfest in March 2024, included 26 items covering a range of mental health factors, support preferences and demographics. Survey responses were gathered electronically, via iPads and personal devices, with data analysed to identify trends and statistically significant differences across demographic groups and correlations. Randomisation of response options for survey items aimed to minimise response bias and survey fatigue. The survey underscores the importance of culturally safe and gender-responsive mental health support for New Zealand’s diverse youth. It reveals a need for support tailored to male youth, who report more barriers to accessing mental health resources. To effectively reach youth, organisations should prioritise digital outreach via social media and ensure design and delivery of culturally resonant activities. For LeVa, enhancing visibility on preferred platforms and expanding face-to-face community presence will strengthen youth engagement and provide critical support to those experiencing discrimination or stress.” *Source: Le Va*

Access and Choice Programme: Monitoring report on progress and achievements at five years

“Access and Choice Programme: Monitoring report on progress and achievements at five years is the 2025 monitoring report on the Access and Choice programme that was rolled out in 2019/20. Independent monitoring shows the programme has substantially increased access to and choice in support services and substantially increased access for people seeking help with mild to moderate

mental health, addiction, and wellbeing issues. While the programme represents a good investment in the mental health of New Zealanders and has come a long way in a difficult environment over the last five years, The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission believe concerted efforts are needed to expand its reach further.

The programme provides tailored services for rangatahi and young people, Māori, and Pacific peoples – aligned with the higher levels of need experienced by these population groups. There has been high uptake of services, with rangatahi and young people making up 20% of people accessing the Access and Choice Programme and Māori making up 27%.

The report outline the changes we want to see and make three recommendations. These recommendations provide more detail about what success looks like so action can be taken and progress monitored.” *Source: The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission*

Promoting good mental health in children and young adults: Best practices in public health

“Children and young people’s mental health is a critical public health concern, with depression and anxiety among the most common conditions in EU/EEA countries. Mental ill-health symptoms can go unrecognised, and without timely intervention, mild to moderate symptoms can escalate into more severe disorders. With support from the European Commission, the OECD has identified and evaluated 11 best practices for preventing mental ill-health and promoting good mental health. This report offers policy makers effective strategies to safeguard the mental health of future generations, enhancing their well-being, productivity, and long-term prosperity.” *Source: OECD*

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Research, Technology, & Innovation

Trust, attitudes and use of artificial intelligence

A comprehensive global study into the public’s trust, use and attitudes towards artificial intelligence (AI). The report presents attitudes towards AI in society, at work and in education. It finds that the responsible use and governance of AI is not keeping pace with adoption. The report is accompanied by a snapshot of Australia insights. *Source: KPMG*

Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: Guidance on large multi-modal models

“Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the capability of algorithms integrated into systems and tools to learn from data so that they can perform automated tasks without explicit programming of every step by a human. Generative AI is a category of AI techniques in which algorithms are trained on data sets that can be used to generate new content, such as text, images or video. This guidance addresses one type of generative AI, large multi-modal models (LMMs), which can accept one or more type of data input and generate diverse outputs that are not limited to the type of data fed into the algorithm. It has been predicted that LMMs will have wide use and application in health care, scientific research, public health and drug development. LMMs are also known as “general-purpose foundation models”, although it is not yet proven whether LMMs can accomplish a wide range of tasks and purposes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

Getting children moving using active video games: a report of the GenMove programme.

“This report outlines the development and evaluation of the GenMove programme, an innovative AVGBased initiative designed to be an engaging indoor/outdoor digital platform that encourages whole-body movement, fosters enjoyment, and enhances both physical and mental health. By leveraging advances in AI, computer vision, and AR, GenMove was tailored to engage children of all abilities aged 8–15 years, with a particular focus on promoting physical activity among less-active children and those not traditionally interested in sports. Developed and tested with support from the State of Qatar Ministry of Health, GenMove was a central feature of the Healthy FIFA World Cup

Qatar 2022™ Project. By integrating evidence-based design with cutting-edge technologies, GenMove demonstrated how digital innovations can inspire movement, improve health outcomes, and create enjoyable experiences for children worldwide.” *Source: World Health Organization*

A Vision & Framework for Research Cultures: Improving the Condition for Researchers, Research Ideas, and the Research Endeavour

“This document outlines Science Europe’s long-term vision and framework for shaping inclusive, sustainable, and high-quality research cultures across Europe and beyond. It defines research culture as encompassing the behaviours, values, and structures that influence how research is conducted and experienced. Developed through extensive collaboration among Science Europe’s members, the vision aims for a research ecosystem that is attractive, inclusive, and socially embedded, with robust ethical standards and transparent governance. The framework presents key shared values—such as care, collegiality, collaboration, autonomy, openness, and integrity—and proposes actionable strategies for institutions, funders, and policymakers. It provides a roadmap for systemic change through alignment of values with research policy and practice, identifying interdependent components of research systems from governance to researcher careers. It calls for the coordinated implementation of actions that empower research professionals, reduce inequities, and create resilient environments for knowledge advancement. Science Europe commits to tracking progress and maintaining open dialogue with stakeholders through qualitative indicators, public mapping of initiatives, and an evolving evidence base.” *Source: Science Europe*

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Health of Older People

Dementia in refugees and migrants: epidemiology, public health implications and global responses

“This is the sixth report of the Global Evidence Review on Health and Migration (GEHM) series. The publication examines the challenges faced by older refugees and migrants, particularly in managing dementia, by reviewing the available evidence on risk factors, barriers to care, and the impact of migration on diagnosis and treatment. It highlights key themes, including access to health services, cultural and structural barriers, and the need for dementia-inclusive policies and support systems. Based on these findings, policy considerations are proposed to enhance awareness, improve care pathways, and strengthen support for carers.

Ensuring equitable access to dementia care for refugees and migrants is essential for building inclusive and effective health systems.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Workforce

2025 AMA rural health issues survey report

This report outlines the results of a survey of 561 rural, regional and remote doctors. Respondents identified the top five most pressing policy priorities as rural hospitals; general practice; workforce; support for reskilling, upskilling and maintaining skills; and access to non-GP specialist services.

Source: Australian Medical Association

Achieving a socialised model of healthcare in Australia with nurse leadership

“This paper advocates for a shift from a biomedical to a socialised model of health care which focuses on social determinants of health and a leading role for nurse-led services. This white paper

uses a hypothetical case study to illustrate the different journeys a patient may experience using a biomedical model compared to a socialised healthcare model.” *Source: Australian College of Nursing*

From classroom to clinic: strategies for recruiting and retaining men in nursing in NSW

Nurses are the backbone of the New South Wales (NSW) public health system, but persistent workforce shortages pose an ongoing challenge. This report proposes a series of targeted strategies to help address the ongoing nursing workforce shortages in NSW, outlining ways to recruit and retain more men into the profession. *Source: James Martin Institute for Public Policy*

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Health Policy

Exploring public views on assisted dying in England Final report: full analysis of Citizens’ Jury and survey findings

“Assisted dying raises a host of ethical and social challenges for contemporary society. A growing list of countries have introduced legislation to permit assisted dying and the UK is currently in the process of legislating for assisted dying as the Terminally Ill (End of Life) Bill makes its way through Parliament. Politicians and policy makers are responding to public opinion in favour of assisted dying in bringing forward this legislation. Assisted dying has been receiving a lot of media attention, including from high-profile individuals with terminal conditions who have argued for their right to choose the time and manner of their own death, to avoid undue suffering. However, others have raised significant concerns about an assisted dying service, including the risks of coercion. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics is an independent expert body which seeks to offer insights into ethically complex areas of biomedicine, including through engaging with public views and concerns. We have over 30 years’ experience in advising practitioners and policymakers grappling with complex and difficult questions within medical research and care. Assisted dying is one such area where we can make an important contribution, drawing from a range of experts and engaging with publics to inform policy in this important but ethically sensitive area. It is therefore my great pleasure to introduce our final report on the Citizens’ Jury and survey findings”. *Source: Nuffield Council on Bioethics*

Action for healthier working lives

“Record numbers of working-age people in the UK are experiencing ill health, especially musculoskeletal and mental health problems, that limits the type or amount of work they can do. This has a significant impact on both individuals and employers, but the government has the opportunity to set a fresh direction.

The independent Commission for Healthier Working Lives was established by the Health Foundation to build a consensus for the action needed by government and employers to meet our working-age health challenge.

The Commission’s final report sets out the need for a new approach to work and health, outlining seven key recommendations to lay the foundation for sustained long-term change. It details the current work and health challenge, including the barriers to action for employers and issues with the existing social security system. It also looks at past and present UK labour market policies and international success stories before setting out recommendations to build a more coordinated and effective workplace support and benefits system. These include reforming statutory sick pay rates, a new ‘vocational rehabilitation benefit’ to help people stay in work when statutory sick pay ends and a caseworker-led service to give people the right support at the right time – starting while still employed.

Given the challenges identified, success will require commitment to a positive long-term vision focused on protecting people’s health and employment. The recommendations proposed show what

needs to change to build healthier working lives in the UK. With an ageing population and rising mental health challenges in the younger population, the time to act is now.” *Source: The Health Foundation*

Randomised Trials in Australian Public Policy: A Review

“This review by the Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) assesses the use, effectiveness, and future potential of randomised trials (also known as RCTs) in Australian public policy. Highlighting their value in establishing causal impacts of programs, the report identifies 369 published trials conducted since 1976—60% of which were released after 2017. While public health and education dominate the field, there has been a significant rise in trials from government behavioural insights units. Through case studies in early childhood, employment services, behavioural interventions, and criminal justice, the review demonstrates how well-designed trials can inform policymaking and resource allocation. It discusses ethical considerations, including cultural appropriateness in trials involving First Nations Australians, and encourages adherence to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. The report advocates for broader, better use of RCTs, alongside other evaluation tools, stressing the importance of thoughtful trial design, transparency, and collaboration between government and academia. It positions the ACE as a national leader in promoting high-quality evaluation through training, resource-sharing, and an emerging network of policy evaluators.” *Source: Australian Centre for Evaluation*

Measuring and monitoring quality of care to improve maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services

“Regular measurement and monitoring of quality of care are essential for improving health services and achieving better health outcomes. High-quality data from these processes can help identify quality gaps and track improvements aimed at ensuring that patients receive care that is safe, effective, people-centered, timely, efficient, and well-integrated. This WHO technical guide focuses primarily on maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and provides practical guidance on how to select, track and analyze quality of care indicators to guide healthcare improvement. It also outlines key system-level interventions necessary to enable effective measurement, including how to assess and strengthen health information systems to measure and monitor prioritized quality of care indicators, how to assess and improve data quality to strengthen quality improvement results and stakeholder trust, and some approaches to strengthening quality improvement measurement capacity of key actors. Designed for frontline health workers, program managers, and policymakers, this guide serves as a valuable resource for integrating quality of care measurement into routine health service delivery and data systems. It includes real-world examples from various countries, demonstrating how robust measurement and monitoring can lead to tangible improvements in health services and outcomes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Public Health

Improving reach and access to health promotion and preventive services for vulnerable children and adolescents: Experiences from five European countries

“Large disparities exist in social and economic risks for children and adolescents. In Europe, a significant number of children are exposed to social or economic vulnerabilities, with data indicating that one in four children under the age of 18 are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This vulnerability was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a disproportionate likelihood of these children facing unmet medical needs compared to their wealthier counterparts. These disparities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds underscore the need for targeted

interventions for groups such as migrants, refugees, orphans, and those from disadvantaged or disrupted family environments, aiming to ensure equitable access to health and social care services. Early childhood interventions and health promotion are crucial for addressing risk factors that negatively impact long-term health, development and well-being. The foundational stages of childhood and adolescence are crucial for long-term health, development and well-being. Factors such as low birth weight, congenital diseases and environmental stressors like poverty, domestic violence and adverse childhood experiences can negatively affect early development and have lasting effects. There is a clear need for early interventions and health promotion strategies that address these risk factors and ensure that countries are reaching these groups to support their healthy development.” *Source: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*

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