

Public Health Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: 22 May 2025, 10:00am to 2:45pm

Location/platform: Online via teams

Attendees

PHAC Members: Kevin Hague (Chair), Jason Gurney, Ruth Cunningham, and Dr Caroline McElroy

Secretariat: Catriona Murray, Clair Mills, Kitty Truell

Guests: Anihana Thorpe, Ross Bell, HIVE representatives

Apologies: Peter Crampton, Faumuina Professor Fa'afetai Sopoaga, Beverly Te Huia

Opening of meeting

Opening karakia by Jason

Whakawhanaungatanga – meeting Anihana Thorpe - Advisor cover

No register of interest changes

April meeting minutes adopted.

Update on activities since last meeting given:

- Determinants report and publication preparation
 - Edited report received
 - Lay summary draft received (needs to be finalised + te reo translation –timing to consider)
 - Reviewers – 2 back already
 - PHAC review timeframes – need for final version for formatting etc. for Minister by June 16.
 - HIVE engagement
 - Geolab Story Map completed

- Images for PHAC report requested
- Web-version and hardcopy (printing will be limited); graphics to be visualised in HTML tool post-Minister
- Tōtara image design to be finalized.
- Key informants – summary document created, have updated them on progress and advised of use of anonymised quotes
- MSD accessible format (will be in 25/26 budget)
- Other updates
 - Proactive release of documents
 - PHAC membership terms
 - Quarterly meetings with Chair and Minister booked in
 - Work programme 25/26 unconfirmed as yet
 - Request for PHAC review of Long Term Insight Briefing “Adding life to years: health system shifts to support wellbeing in later life.” Review by 30 May if possible, 3 June if needed.
 - WHO report launched
 - Secretariat update: Kitty leaving, staying on to support determinants report. Anihana joining as a 2-month secondment. Anihana is an advisor in ISK – Surveillance Strategy and Standards. Recruitment process tbc.

PHA and health sector update

Ross Bell joined. Secretariat absent.

Session 1 Determinants report

Story map update

Data indicators for PHAC approval –PHAC approved indicators to highlight in main report, and which to annex.

Actions:

- Stay consistent with Stats NZ ethnicity definitions
- Consider consistency for European/NZE/Pākehā

- Suggest comment in report on limitations of oral health data (heavily biased by access issues).

HIVE presentation

Presentation and Q&A from HIVE representatives of their insights gathered for the determinants of health report. Positive and very useful discussion.

Actions:

- Align the PHAC report framing – including identity as a determinant
- Make the report recommendations and second half more future focused
- Use the HIVE report as an appendix to the main report as well as incorporating themes and quotes.
- Align the protective factors – sense of identity/ hāpori as protective factors, how to incorporate framing of community as not just neighbourhoods (may be virtual/communities of interest) that contribute to positive identity/supportive environments.
- Add quote and thinking about ‘judgement’ in discrimination section.
- Look at <https://www.mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/wellbeing/achieving-equity-of-pacific-mental-health-and-wellbeing-outcomes/>

Recommendations

PHAC to review the final edit – after the reviewers so they can consider that feedback.

Clair requests feedback on addressing structural factors- economic and health systems – how to improve flow. The 2025 WHO Determinants gives recommendations after each section. PHAC to scan WHO doc to see how structure could be improved.

For PHAC input:

- Section between pages 14-18, section 3 and part of section 5 looks back – too repetitive?
- How the recommendations fit together. Do they need to be more future focused vs the health system/ working intersectorally focus?
- Consider if message clear enough about Ministers’ role in making intersectoral collaboration happen

- Consider how to create motivation for intersectoral collaboration and how to empower communities. This is a fundamental piece- aligning motivation and creating shared goals- this has not been done. Can this report contribute to a different dynamic.

Actions:

- Clair to start the executive summary and plain language. Will help clarify the problem definition, what we have learned, what does this mean and how we shape the future
- Secretariat to set up follow up call after the reviewer feedback is in, to review with exec summary.
- PHAC to provide comments to Clair. Caroline and Ruth agreed to send feedback on recommendations
- PHAC final review 9 June – 16 June
- Section 7 - decide whether to put as appendices.

Closing

Karakia by Jason

Next meeting: In person Wellington 26 June.