



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

[A rare kind of care: an agenda to deliver health equity for Australians living with rare disease](#)

"Rare disease patients and their families and carers face multiple inequities in relation to diagnosis, care, support and access to treatment. This report explores Australia's rare disease policy

framework, shining a spotlight on the approach of state and territory governments, to identify gaps and propose new actions by all levels of government to improve health equity for people living with a rare disease so that no patient is left behind." *Source: The McKell Institute*

Final report of the evaluation of the Australian Government's investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme

"This report sets out the findings and recommendations of a 6-year evaluation of the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP) from 2017 to 2023. The aim of the evaluation was to strengthen the appropriateness and effectiveness of comprehensive primary health care systems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. It finds Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services carry significant responsibility within their communities." *Source: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Australia)*

Measuring what really matters for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: racism and cultural safety in healthcare

"Institutional racism within Australian hospitals is a critical public health issue that profoundly impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This racism is not merely a collection of isolated incidents; it's a systemic problem that affects patients at both an individual and societal level. Experiences of racism and culturally unsafe care creates lack of safety in the system which contributes to poorer health outcomes, lifelong harm, and in some cases, preventable deaths. While tools exist to assess institutional racism, they are not consistently applied, which limits accountability and progress. This Issues Brief calls for a fundamental change in approach which moves away from fragmented, superficial measures toward a unified, data-driven, and Indigenous-led strategy" *Source: Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research*

Health inequities in Australia

"Commissioned by the Australian Human Rights Commission, this scoping review investigates how racism affects health outcomes and access to healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other negatively racialised communities. It provides evidence-based recommendations to support the National Anti-Racism Framework and drive systemic reform and is also an education piece for practitioners in the health sector." *Source: Australian Human Rights Commission*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

From hospital to community: International lessons on moving care closer to home

"In July 2025, the government launched its 10 Year Health Plan for the NHS in England, with a central aim of shifting more care from hospitals into community settings. This ambition is not new: successive initiatives over decades have sought to strengthen out-of-hospital care, but most have fallen short of expectations. England is not alone in grappling with this challenge, and other countries have pursued similar reforms. This report examines, in depth, the experiences of Denmark and Ireland, distilling lessons that can inform England's efforts to deliver its new health plan. The report focusses on these countries because both have committed to bold, long-term strategies to rebalance care towards communities, reduce pressure on hospitals, and respond to ageing populations and rising chronic disease. Denmark is just at the start of its reform, whereas Ireland is nearly a decade in. Their contrasting trajectories and contexts highlight both common challenges and practical approaches that England can learn from. The findings draw on 24 expert interviews and a structured review of policy documents and literature from Denmark and Ireland. Aimed at system leaders, policy-makers and government, it distils lessons from these countries' reform efforts to inform England's delivery of the NHS 10 Year Health Plan." *Source: The Nuffield Trust*

All or nothing? Access and variation in NHS continuing health care

NHS continuing health care provides funded health and social care support for people with very complex needs outside hospital. Yet this comprehensive new report shows this system is highly inconsistent, with wide regional variation in eligibility, spending and practice. Families can face a bruising process to access CHC at the most difficult time of their lives, navigating opaque rules and financial cliff-edges. CHC shines a light on the wider fractures between health and social care: a system under pressure, struggling to deliver fair, timely and sustainable support – and one that urgently needs reform. *Source: The Nuffield Trust*

Saving lives, spending less: the global investment case for noncommunicable diseases

"Saving lives, spending less: the global investment case for noncommunicable diseases outlines why urgent investment in cost-effective interventions for NCDs is essential for health and sustainable development. Drawing on the World Health Organization's package of NCD best buys, the report demonstrates how these evidence-based measures can help countries reduce premature deaths, strengthen health systems, and advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides policymakers, donors, advocates, and partners with a clear economic and social rationale for scaling up implementation of proven solutions. By framing NCD prevention and control as both a health and development priority, the report offers a roadmap for action that delivers benefits across populations, economies, and generations." *Source: World Health Organization*

Advancing multisectoral and multistakeholder actions on noncommunicable diseases: thematic issue briefs

"The thematic issue briefs discuss challenges and opportunities in advancing multisectoral and multistakeholder action on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Each brief includes a rationale, stakeholder-specific recommendations and key messages on institutionalizing multisectoral governance, leveraging data and evidence for multisectoral policies and programmes, and strengthening multisectoral narratives on NCDs. Co-developed with leading participant organizations of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD), the briefs are designed to serve as both additional technical references and strong advocacy tools to advance multisectoral and multistakeholder action on NCDs." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

Mental Health Atlas 2024

"WHO's Mental Health Atlas is a periodic survey and report of countries' mental health policies and programmes, laws, information systems, financing, workforce and services. The 2024 edition, the seventh in a series that started in 2001, draws on data from 144 countries and includes several new indicators on service delivery including telehealth and physical health, community-based care, and data monitoring. This latest report provides an overview of global mental health systems and services, tracks progress towards the targets of WHO's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030, and identifies key gaps in mental health service development across the world." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Research, Technology, & Innovation

Exploring the Ethical Dimensions of Sequencing Newborns' Genomes

"Interest in genetic testing has significantly increased since the mapping of the human genome in 2003, offering great insight into disease risk. National Health Service (NHS) Genomic Medicine Centres have now been rolled out across England and offer tests from the NHS National Genomic Test Directory, with partner organisations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This has increased the range of tests available and made genetic tests more accessible. The current focus of these tests, and the 100,000 Genomes Project led by Genomics England, is rare diseases and cancer, and the primary objective is to reduce diagnosis time and inform treatment decisions and estimates of prognosis. As part of this investment in incorporating genomics into clinical practice, Genomics England, in partnership with NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I), are conducting a research programme to investigate the use of whole genome sequencing (WGS) within a newborn screening context, as well as for wider genomics research to support new diagnostics and treatment for rare genetic conditions." *Source: RAND*

Autism: an evidence brief

"This evidence brief examines childhood autism, including claims around paracetamol and vaccination. It addresses misinformation and explains the science that demonstrates that there is no evidence for a causal link between autism and paracetamol, or autism and vaccines. It outlines the causes of autism, autism trends in Australia and factors linked to the rising prevalence of autism." *Source: Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences*

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Health of Older People

Voluntary assisted dying in residential aged care homes

"This report is about residential aged care and information provided about the legal choice of voluntary assisted dying (VAD). Despite VAD being legal in every state and the ACT, the report finds that the majority of Australia's residential aged care providers are yet to give VAD the same support and visibility as other end-of-life choices." *Source: Go Gentle Australia*

Alternative skills mix use in specialised homeless residential aged care services

"This evaluation report presents the findings into the service model and staffing skills mix of specialised homeless aged care homes. The report gives recommendations about models of care, skills mix and care minutes, monitoring and reporting." *Source: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Australia)*

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Disability

Toolkit for engaging with people with disability in evaluation

"Evaluations are checks that governments and organisations do to see how well their policies, programs and services are working. Involving people with disability in evaluation ensures decisions reflect their lived experiences and what truly matters to them. The Toolkit supports the 1 in 5 Australians who identify as having a disability by helping to make sure their voices are heard and respected. The Toolkit includes:

Easy-to-follow guidance for people with disability about how to get involved in evaluation
Advice for evaluators and decision makers on how to be inclusive

Practical tools like checklists and fact sheets to support good practice" *Source: Government of Australia*

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Cancer

[Addressing the Impact of Tobacco and Alcohol Use on Cancer-Related Health Outcomes](#)

"Tobacco use and alcohol use place first and third, respectively, as leading modifiable risk factors for cancer cases and deaths in the US. Our National Cancer Policy Forum convened a public workshop in March 2025 to examine current evidence on the health outcomes of tobacco and alcohol use, including their synergistic effects. Participants explored the state of research on tobacco and alcohol as cancer risk factors and differences in outcomes across U.S. populations. Speakers discussed potential strategies, such as community engagement and public health messaging, to reduce tobacco and alcohol use to lower cancer risk and improve health outcomes for all. This Proceedings of a Workshop summarizes presentations and discussions from the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Cancer research and development landscape: overview of 1999-2022 period](#)

"Despite significant progress in therapeutic development, cancer is still associated with a substantial global disease burden, which is projected to increase significantly in the coming decades, particularly in low- and lower middle-income countries. Cancer clinical trials play a critical role not only at the individual level by allowing timely access to the most innovative preventive and treatment strategies but also at the population level, fostering advancements that contribute to a broader understanding of cancer and its management, and improving collective health care practices. This report offers a landscape analysis on global cancer clinical trials in 2023 using the World Health Organization (WHO) International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) and Global Observatory on Health Research and Development (R&D)." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Public Health

[Standard case definitions of acute bacterial meningitis and invasive meningococcal disease for routine and outbreak surveillance](#)

"Acute bacterial meningitis and invasive meningococcal disease are global public health threats that require sustained control efforts. Under the framework of Defeating meningitis by 2030: a global road map, the World Health Organization has developed and updated standard case definitions to strengthen disease surveillance, support timely outbreak detection and response, and ensure consistent data collection and reporting across health care settings and systems. This document provides ministries of health, public health agencies, and national and international organizations with a practical framework for applying standard case definitions of acute bacterial meningitis and invasive meningococcal disease in different epidemiological contexts. Grounded in an evidence-based approach, it offers guidance on identifying and classifying suspected, probable, and confirmed cases for routine surveillance, outbreak investigation and response, and humanitarian emergencies. The definitions are adapted for both syndromic and pathogen-specific surveillance systems, ensuring operational relevance in countries with varying technical and infrastructural resources." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Framework to support the sustainability of community protection for mpox prevention and control](#)

"This document sets out a high-level framework to maintain the key functions for mpox community protection through ongoing emergency response, and to support the implementation of WHO's Strategic framework for prevention and control of mpox: 2024–2027. These functions include risk communication and community engagement (RCCE); infodemic management; investing in community capacities, including civil society, health workers and local actors; the context-sensitive implementation of population and environmental interventions; and taking into consideration the social and economic determinants that shape vulnerability and responses." *Source: World Health Organization*

Malaria surveillance, monitoring and evaluation: a reference manual

"This manual provides comprehensive guidance on making malaria surveillance a core intervention across all transmission settings. It positions surveillance as a dynamic tool to drive decision-making, guide resource allocation and shape intervention planning. By effectively using surveillance data, countries can target interventions to high-burden areas and populations, anticipate and prevent outbreaks, support the transition to elimination, and reduce the risk of re-establishment in areas that have achieved malaria-free status. The revised manual is aligned with new WHO resources on malaria elimination, control in emergencies and subnational tailoring of interventions. The manual outlines methodologies for data collection, reporting, analysis and use tailored to different transmission settings. It provides strategies to integrate surveillance data within broader health information systems, ensuring sustainability and adaptability to emerging challenges such as climate change. It also provides guidance on monitoring antimalarial drug efficacy and resistance, vector and insecticide resistance, and outbreak detection and response. Practical tools, standardized indicators, data visualization approaches and case studies support implementation at national and subnational levels. The manual addresses persistent gaps such as inadequate data quality, incomplete case detection and insufficient preparedness, and offers solutions that emphasize collaboration, capacity-strengthening and innovation to reduce malaria burden, accelerate towards elimination and sustain malaria-free status." *Source: World Health Organization*

Strengthening primary health care-oriented health systems to address antimicrobial resistance

"A primary health care (PHC)-oriented health system aims to maximize the level and distribution of health and well-being through three components: (i) primary care and essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services; (ii) multisectoral policy and action; and (iii) empowered people and communities. This policy brief describes 8 priority antimicrobial resistance (AMR) interventions for mainstreaming AMR into PHC-oriented health systems and includes an AMR and PHC country scoping tool and stakeholder consideration list. It builds on the WHO people-centred approach to addressing AMR (PCA-AMR) and its core package of 13 AMR interventions, which promotes equitable, affordable access to high-quality health services for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infections, including drug-resistant infections. The priority interventions and practical examples noted in this policy brief are aligned with the PCA-AMR and are clustered according to the three PHC components. The interventions described are targeted at strengthening primary care and bolstering community engagement and are based on evidence and lessons learnt from a validation project in four countries." *Source: World Health Organization*

Global report on hypertension 2025: high stakes: turning evidence into action

"The second Global report on hypertension highlights the urgent need to scale up detection, treatment, and control of hypertension, especially at the primary health care level. It showcases proven solutions, country successes, and clear recommendations for governments and partners. Ensuring reliable access to affordable, quality-assured antihypertensive medicines and validated blood pressure devices is highlighted as a cornerstone of effective care. By prioritizing hypertension control, countries can save millions of lives, reduce health care costs, and accelerate progress toward universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. It also contains

information on the global, regional and country-level burden of hypertension and progress of control efforts." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Health Policy

Transforming health professions regulation in Australia

"Health professions regulation has the foundational objectives of patient safety and ethical standards. Alongside this, it has a central role to play in advancing the broader goals of strengthening the capacity, efficiency and growth of health services in Australia. As the health system and public needs and expectations change, there are associated risks and opportunities for regulation.

To succeed in meeting these objectives, the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health practitioners (the National Scheme) needs two speeds. It must always maintain excellence and credibility in regulating the higher risk professions and practitioners. It also needs inbuilt capability to grow and recalibrate, so that it can meet new regulatory challenges and support health system and workforce priorities. This Final Report proposes new directions and actions to transform the National Scheme, so that it delivers maximum effectiveness in safeguarding public health and safety, including supporting the continuous development of a flexible, responsive, and sustainable Australian health workforce. It draws on global best practice in the design of health professions regulation and on the observations and feedback received during research and consultation phases of the Review. " *Source: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Australia)*

A decision framework for effective, equitable and context-specific public health and social measures during public health emergencies: decision navigator

"In times of public health crises, leaders and decision-makers face immense pressure to act quickly and effectively. Their choices regarding public health and social measures (PHSM) must not only protect communities but also minimize disruptions to daily life and the economy. Their decisions on selecting and adjusting PHSM during public health emergencies require careful consideration of a complex array of factors, including the epidemiological situation, health system capacity, availability of medical countermeasures, along with resource availability, political and legal feasibility and public acceptance of the PHSM being considered. WHO has developed the PHSM Decision Navigator to provide a clear, systematic, and equitable framework for making these critical decisions." *Source: World Health Organization*

Integrative review of national health literacy policy blueprints as a tool for change toward health literate systems

"Health literacy enables people to access, understand, and use information and services to make informed health decisions, improving health and quality of life. However, many countries face major challenges. This technical report introduces the concept of health literacy, its political mandate, and lessons from national blueprint development to support health-literate systems. It highlights actions requiring intersectoral and interdisciplinary coordination across government, private sector, and civil society." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Environment and Health

Decarbonising Health Systems Across OECD Countries

"Health systems account for over 4% of total greenhouse gas emissions in OECD countries, making them a significant contributor to the carbon footprint. As populations age and demand for healthcare rises, the sector's environmental footprint is likely to grow without policies to address the issue. At the same time, governments face increasing pressure to deliver care efficiently within tight health budgets. This report examines how OECD countries are addressing this challenge, discussing policies that both deliver high-quality health services and improve health outcomes, and reduce the carbon footprint. The report highlights how policies that reduce waste and low-value care can both improve health systems' efficiency and population health outcomes while also lowering emissions. It further suggests that progress towards reducing health systems' environmental impact remains impaired by limited data on healthcare-related emissions and the sector's broader environmental effects." *Source: OECD*

Measuring greenhouse gas emissions in the health sector

"There has been increased policy attention to the close links between a changing climate and health, and to the contribution of the health sector to overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Many countries have policies in place to decarbonise their health systems but monitoring progress requires robust measures. While several studies exist on an international level to measure the carbon footprint of the health sector, they are either outdated or lack in granularity. This document presents the first estimates on GHG emissions associated with the health sector for all OECD countries for the year 2018, based on a modelling approach using OECD's Inter-Country Input-Output (ICIO) tables in combination with OECD's annual health expenditure data collection. Results show that at the aggregate level, the health sector accounted for 4.4% of all demand-based GHG emissions across the OECD. Hospitals, medical goods and the outpatient sector were responsible for around three-quarters of all health-related GHG emissions. Nearly four-fifths of all emissions associated with the health sector can be attributed to supply chains." *Source: OECD*

Household air pollution and related health impacts

"More than a quarter of the global population still cook meals over open fires and/or on simple stoves fuelled by firewood, agricultural waste, dried dung, charcoal, and coal. This practice results in the emission of harmful and dangerously high levels of household air pollution. Exposure to this household air pollution has been estimated to cause around 3.2 million deaths annually in 2019; these emissions also worsen ambient air quality, alter the global climate, have gendered livelihood impacts, and degrade the local environment. Lower-emission and exposure-reducing alternatives – like gas and electricity – are widely used among middle- and upper-income households globally but have not yet been made available or affordable to poorer households at scale. It is also important to tackle household air pollution in refugee and migrant communities, where people are often forced to burn harmful materials like trash and plastics for their basic needs. This exacerbates health risks for already vulnerable groups, especially given the growing conflicts and climate change." *Source: World Health Organization*

Green spaces: sectoral solutions for air pollution and health

"Exposure to green spaces is widely associated with health benefits, including mental (e.g. reduced risk of depression and anxiety), physical (e.g. improved cardiovascular health), healthy behaviours (e.g. physical activity) and social health (e.g. reduced loneliness). These health benefits can result in major health sector cost savings. Additionally, health co-benefits of green spaces may arise from interventions aimed at improving air quality, which could partially explain the relationship between green spaces and health. This document is part of the WHO Air Quality, Energy, and Health Science and Policy Summaries (SPS). These summaries provide concise overviews of current knowledge and

evidence on air quality, energy access, climate change, and health. They aim to support decision-makers by presenting key insights from scientific research." *Source: World Health Organization*

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