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15 October 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2025073540

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 2 October 2025 for information regarding the Approval of the National Drug Policy Cabinet paper. You requested:

“In the 'Approval of the National Drug Policy (Cabinet Paper)' document it mentions appendices 1-4. I cannot find these anywhere on the Ministry of Health website. I am currently completing an assignment which requires me to look at the differences between the NDP and the Law Commission Review which I would use these appendices for.”

The appendices you seek related to the National Drug Policy 2015 to 2020 (published in August 2015) are itemised in Appendix 1, with copies enclosed.

You may also be interested in the *National Drug Policy 2015 to 2020: Progress Report 2016* released in August 2016. This can be found at the following link:
www.health.govt.nz/publications/national-drug-policy-2015-to-2020-progress-report-2016.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



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Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	August 2015	Appendix 1: National Drug Policy 2015 to 2020	The final version of this document is publicly available at the following link: www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2015-08/national-drug-policy-2015-2020-aug15.pdf . Therefore, section 18(d) of the Act applies.
2		Appendix 2: Actions under the National Drug Policy	Released in full.
3		Appendix 3: Law Commission report Controlling and Regulating Drugs – A review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975: Status of Governments response	
4		Appendix 4: A New National Drug Policy for New Zealand: Summary of Submissions	Section 18(d) of the Act applies, that the document is publicly available at the following link: www.health.govt.nz/publications/a-new-national-drug-policy-for-new-zealand-summary-of-submissions .

Appendix 2 – Actions under the National Drug Policy

By 2017/18 the Government will:

Action	Year
Priority Area 1 – Improving what we know	
• develop Tier 1 statistics for drug harm	2015/16
• develop a multi-agency Early Warning System to monitor emerging trends and inform enforcement and harm reduction strategies	2016/17
• update the New Zealand Drug Harm Index	2016/17
• publish a literature review of population level drug impacts and unmet needs	2015/16
• develop and implement an drug information plan	2016/17
Priority Area 2 – Getting the legal balance right	
• work with the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs to ensure that harm minimisation is a central feature of drug classification assessments	2015/16
• review the regulation of controlled drugs for legitimate purposes (such as medicines) alongside reviews of the Medicines Act and other therapeutics legislation	2017/18
• develop options for further minimising harm in relation to the offence and penalty regime for personal possession within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.	2017/18
• release a discussion document seeking feedback on appropriate regulation of drug utensils	2015/16
• introduce the Substance Addiction (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Bill to Parliament	2015/16
• develop a New Zealand position for United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs 2016	2015/16
• review the effectiveness of new police powers to deal with breaches of local alcohol bans introduced through the Local Government (Alcohol Reform) Amendment Act 2012	2015/16
• evaluate the Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Court Pilot	2017/18
• commence a review of the policy and operation of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013	2017/18
Priority Area 3 – Creating a people-centred intervention system	
• develop a system map of potential resilience and intervention points across a person's life stages	2016/17
• develop and implement a strategic framework for adult and youth drug services	2017/18
• regularly disseminate case studies of good and innovative practice	2015/16
• develop common tools and/or forums to share practice and celebrate success to foster system learning and improvement	2017/18
• develop initiatives and an implementation plan to improve outcomes for children of parents with mental illness and addiction	2017/18
Priority Area 4 – Shifting thinking and behaviour	
• build on existing drug-related public education campaigns to change culture, promote help seeking and address stigma	Ongoing
• Provide guidance to support schools dealing with drug issues and helping students who need it, with a focus on keeping students engaged where possible	2016/17
• develop guidance for improving drug intervention for services engaging with young people not in education or employment	2016/17
Priority Area 5 – Disrupting organised crime	
• conduct the National Cannabis and Crime Operation to disrupt the activities of organised crime groups involved in the cultivation of cannabis	Annual
• implement the Whole of Government Action Plan on Tackling Gangs	2017/18
• work with authorities in drug source and transit countries to break precursor chemical and drug supply chains into New Zealand	Ongoing
• continue multi-agency investigations and targeting operations focussed on identified vulnerabilities of key organised crime groups and the supply chain	Ongoing
• continue multi-agency investigations and targeting operations focussed on identified vulnerabilities of key organised crime groups and drug the supply chain	Ongoing
• implement the Organised Crime and Anti-corruption Legislation Bill provisions	2017/18

Appendix 3 – Law Commission report Controlling and Regulating Drugs – A Review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975: Status of Government’s response

Recommendation	Response status	Comment
<u>Chapter 4 – The case for change</u> (1 rec – that the Act be repealed and replaced by a new Act)	*Not supported at this time	The Government is responding to the Law Commission’s recommendations in tranches of work rather than a re-write of the Act. The highest priority recommendations have already been responded to through the creation of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013, establishment of a five-year Alcohol and Other Drug Court pilot, implementation of the criminal proceeds regime, and tidying up of the search and surveillance powers. Further responses will be undertaken as actions in the National Drug Policy in relation to drug classification assessments and the regulation of legitimate uses of controlled drugs and drug utensils. Responses to offence and penalty recommendations will be deferred to allow for an assessment of a number of Government programmes introduced to reduce offending and victimisation and increase pathways to drug education and treatment.
<u>Chapter 5 – New psychoactive substances</u> (44 recs)	✓Complete	The Psychoactive Substances Act 2013 established a regulatory regime for psychoactive substances.
<u>Chapter 6 – Drug classification</u> (13 recs)	✓Action in the National Drug Policy	In 2014, the Government re-established the Expert Advisory Committee and Drugs and will work with the existing Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs to ensure that harm minimisation is a central feature of assessment and that a regular schedule of assessment is developed for reviewing classifications. This work may identify a case for future legislative change.
<u>Chapter 7 – Dealing</u> (10 recs)	✓Action in the National Drug Policy to assess the effectiveness of the offences and penalty regime to minimise AOD-related harm. ✓Action in the National Drug Policy regarding utensils. - Response to Chapters 7 and 9 (other than in relation to utensils) not to be progressed at this time	Over the last five years, the Government has undertaken a number of work programmes that minimise AOD-related harm within the context of the criminal justice system. These work programmes have included keeping low-level offenders out of the criminal justice system and better connecting offenders to AOD education and treatment. Internationally, a number of different models are also appearing to provide alternative resolutions for low-level offenders apprehended for the possession of drugs. These approaches will inform the development of options for further minimising harm in relation to the offence and penalty regime for personal possession within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. Examples of recent and current Government initiatives to minimise AOD-related harm within the context of the criminal justice system are below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cross government programme <i>Addressing the Drivers of Crime</i> includes measures aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of drug treatment services and identifying alternative approaches to manage low-level repeat offenders and offer pathways to success. • The <i>Accessible Justice</i> work programme includes measures aimed at expanding the use of conditional pre-charge warnings and better supporting offenders transitioning to the community to reduce the risk of reoffending. • The <i>Youth Crime Action Plan</i> includes measures aimed earlier interventions and reducing escalation, for example ensuring the majority of cases are referred to Police Youth Aid, developing a process of early case consultation, and increasing attendance of youth forensic mental health staff at Youth Courts
<u>Chapter 8 – Personal possession and use</u> (8 recs)		
<u>Chapter 9 – Other offences and penalties and procedural provisions</u> (29 recs)		

Recommendation	Response status	Comment
		Reviewing the regulation of drug utensils will ensure an optimal balance between enabling the harm reduction role utensils can play and reducing the risk of encouraging use that may arise from availability and visibility of utensils.
<u>Chapter 10 – Exemptions from prohibition</u> (24 recs)	✓Action in National Drug Policy	A review of New Zealand’s therapeutics legislation, including the Medicines Act 1981, is proceeding following the cessation of the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency. Reviewing the regulation of controlled drugs for legitimate purposes as part of that work will avoid duplication and provide an opportunity for consistency. It will include an assessment of the current processes to trial and develop medicines, including for medicinal cannabis products. Work is already underway to develop a new therapeutics regime following the cessation of the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency.
<u>Chapter 11 – Enforcement</u> (5 Recs)	✓Complete	The Search and Surveillance Act 2012 made changes to search powers in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.
<u>Chapter 12 – Drug treatment</u> (4 Recs)	✓Complete in relation to Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Courts ✗Rejected in relation to separate Justice Sector funding stream for treatment of offenders	5 year Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court pilot in place and evaluation underway. Improvements have been made to referrals from the Justice system to alcohol and other drug assessment and treatment programmes. A separate funding stream is not needed to ensure offenders have access to these programmes. The Ministry of Health is experienced at purchasing addiction treatment services and having one contractor is more efficient, enabling standardised contracts and consistency of services.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982