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# Minister for Mental Health Weekly Report

Week commencing 28 April 2025  
prepared on 23 April 2025

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# 1 Mental health work programme weekly update

## 1.1 Mental Health Bill

This item updates you on progress of the Mental Health Bill (the Bill).

### Background

You introduced the Bill to the House on Tuesday 1 October 2024. The First Reading happened on Wednesday 23 October 2024, where it was referred to the Health Select Committee (the Committee) for consideration. The Committee was required to provide its final report by Wednesday 23 April 2025.

### Comment

On Thursday 17 April 2025, the Committee reported back on the Bill, unanimously recommending that the Bill be passed with a series of amendments. The final report has been published on Parliament’s website.

The Committee’s commentary in the final report provides differing views in some areas from the Green Party, Te Pati Māori, and the Labour Party. These views will be an indication of matters members are likely to raise during the Second Reading debate. It also provides an indication of potential amendments to the Bill that members may put forward via an amendment paper (formerly a supplementary order paper) at the Committee of the whole House stage, where members will debate the Bill part by part.

We will provide advice on the areas outlined in the Committee’s commentary as part of the materials to support you as the Bill progress through the next legislative stages.

### Next steps

We will provide Second Reading materials to you on Thursday 24 April 2025, followed by Committee of the whole House materials on Thursday 1 May 2025.

<b>Deputy Director-General</b>	Geoff Short, Clinical, Community and Mental Health, s 9(2)(a)
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## 1.2 Youth Parliament – gambling harm

This item updates you on youth gambling, which is a topic for discussion as part of this year’s Youth Parliament Parliamentary Working Groups (PWGs).

### Background

Held every three years, Youth Parliament 2025 is the 11th to take place. Youth Parliament aims to replicate parliamentary processes and provide a youth development opportunity for over 140 young people. A new feature of the 2025 programme is up to 12 PWGs made up of 10 to 12 youth MPs focused on different policy topics supplied by a range of government agencies.

In March 2025, agencies were asked by the Ministry of Youth Development - Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi (MYD) to identify potential topics for PWGs that youth MPs could work on during their Youth Parliament tenure (May to August 2025). The guidance from MYD was that these should be policy topics or questions that agencies need or want a youth perspective on.

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**Comment**

The Ministry proposed that youth gambling be considered as a topic, given this is a significant risk area for young people and in particular, there is growing concerns about online gambling, as well as the importance that government interventions to address youth gambling are informed by youth voice and lived experiences.

The 2023/24 New Zealand Gambling Survey found that young people aged between 15 and 24 make up approximately 25% (26,000 individuals) of moderate and high-risk gamblers.

On Wednesday 16 April 2025, MYD notified the Ministry that it had accepted youth gambling as a topic area for PWGs in the 2025 Youth Parliament. This topic and others from across government will be provided to the Minister for Youth in the coming week and he will then share these with the Youth Parliament Multiparty Reference Group. The Minister for Youth will also likely engage with you as the relevant Minister for our submitted topic.

This consideration is timely as it will help inform the work the Ministry is leading to undertake an impact evaluation of the Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm to ascertain its effectiveness and outcomes over time and help determine our future approach.

**Next steps**

We will work with MYD to develop a short PWG topic brief on youth gambling to support Youth MPs who will then engage with other young people on this. In late May 2025, a Ministry representative will attend a 45-minute online information session with Youth MPs to brief them on the topic and answer any questions.

<b>Deputy Director-General</b>	Geoff Short, Clinical, Community and Mental Health, s 9(2)(a)
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**2 Other updates**

There are no items this week.

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