

Aide-Mémoire

Quarterly meeting with the New Zealand Drug Foundation, 27 November 2024

Date due to MO: 22 November 2024 **Date of Meeting:** 27 November 2024

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Reference:** H2024055581

To: Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health

Proactive release: This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release: ☒

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
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About the Meeting

Purpose of Meeting: This meeting is one of your regular quarterly meetings with the New Zealand Drug Foundation | Te Puna Whakaiti Pāmamae Kai Whakapiri (the NZ Drug Foundation).
You last met with the NZ Drug Foundation on Thursday 8 August 2024 [H2024045756 refers].

Details of Meeting:
Date: 27 November 2024
Time: 9:00 am to 9:30 am
Venue: Online via Teams

Attendees: Attendees are likely to include:

- Sarah Helm, Chief Executive
- Tuari Potiki, Chairperson of the Board
- Ben Birks-Ang, Deputy Executive Director / Programmes Manager
- Jacek Kolodziej, Policy Director.

Ministry representatives: Heather Raeburn, Principal Policy Analyst, Mental Health, Addiction, and Suicide Prevention Strategy and Policy, from Manatū Hauora – Ministry of Health (the Ministry) will attend the meeting to support you.

Comment: The NZ Drug Foundation has indicated they would like to discuss the following at your meeting:

- highlighting drugs of concern and overdose prevention
- update on planning for the Alcohol and Other Drugs summit
- update on the Tūturu programme's progress
- supporting the harm reduction sector
- return on investment of the NZ Drug Foundation's work.

We have included brief commentary for each item below, including potential points you may wish to raise for some items.

Highlighting drugs of concern and preventing overdoses

Drugs of concern

1. The NZ Drug Foundation will likely raise the increase of consumption across New Zealand of both methamphetamine (an increase of 82% (or 15 kilograms) above

the average amount consumed over the previous 12 months) and cocaine (72% (or 2.5 kilograms) above the average amount consumed over the previous 12 months), as seen in the National Drug Intelligence Bureau wastewater reports from September and August 2024.

2. We understand that the NZ Drug Foundation has reached out to some of your Ministerial colleagues to organise meetings about the increase in illicit substances, in particularly methamphetamine. You may wish to ask the NZ Drug Foundation about these meetings.
3. You may also wish to ask the NZ Drug Foundation how preparations are going for drug checking at upcoming summer festivals.

Overdose Prevention

4. On 5 December 2024, the Ministry will provide you with a draft *National Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Guide* for your approval to circulate to stakeholders for targeted consultation. This work relates to your overdose prevention plan work programme priority.
5. At the same time, the Ministry will also provide you with advice on options for further policy development to strengthen government actions to prevent overdoses. The proposed policy options relate to regulations and legislation under the Minister of Health's portfolio, so the advice will recommend that you discuss these options with the Minister of Health.
6. The NZ Drug Foundation may also want to discuss plans to report back progress on this work to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) at the annual CND event in March 2025 in Vienna. New Zealand indicated support for this work at the 2024 CND event.
7. At this time the Ministry is not planning to send any in-person representatives for the 2025 CND event, New Zealand will instead be represented by MFAT officials stationed in Vienna, as per the approach in 2024. Traditionally officials prepare a country statement providing updates on activity in the previous year. The New Zealand 2025 country statement will include a high-level overview of the progress on the overdose plan.
8. The NZ Drug Foundation have indicated that they have been working on measures to reduce harm from overdoses including:
 - a. trying to find an alternative to nasal spray naloxone after the supplier pulled out of the New Zealand market
 - b. developing a proposal for a trial of a peer response service to non-fatal overdose to prevent further overdoses, as part of one of the peer services in emergency department contracts
 - c. developing training packages to better equip existing services, whānau, community and friends to respond to an overdose
 - d. talking to individual MPs about a Member's Bill to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 (MoDA) to allow the provision of a 'Good Samaritan' clause.
9. The NZ Drug Foundation has described the actions listed above as "cost-neutral". However, the Ministry consider implementation of most of these proposals would require some level of increased investment. The advice you will receive on 5 December 2024 will include information about these potential actions.

10. You may wish to thank and acknowledge all the work the NZ Drug Foundation is doing to address the ongoing availability of nasal spray naloxone in New Zealand.

Planning the Alcohol and Other Drugs Summit 2025

11. At your previous meeting on 8 August 2024, there was a discussion about the idea of a summit for Alcohol and Other Drugs hosted by the NZ Drug Foundation.
12. Although no date has been set yet, officials at the Ministry are engaged with the NZ Drug Foundation on their planning work for the summit.
13. You may wish to reconfirm that prevention and early interventions are part of your portfolio priorities as Minister for Mental Health and that you would appreciate if the NZ Drug Foundation could keep your office updated as the planning for the summit progresses.

Update on Tūturu

14. Tūturu is a school-based harm reduction service lead by the NZ Drug Foundation and funded by Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ).
15. The NZ Drug Foundation shared an infographic with your office that includes key statistics about the programme's coverage as of August 2024. Please see re-attached as **Appendix A** for ease of reference.

Supporting the harm reduction sector

16. The NZ Drug Foundation would like to discuss staffing and resourcing in the harm reduction sector, in particular how restructures at health agencies may impact the sector.
17. You may wish to acknowledge the importance of harm reduction services for substance use and your commitment to improving health services, noting the independence of Health NZ as a crown entity in making structural changes. You could suggest that this topic be discussed at the Alcohol and Other Drugs Summit in the context of return on investment - more information provided below.

Return on investment of the NZ Drug Foundations' work and the sector

18. We understand that the NZ Drug Foundation is planning on publicly releasing a paper on the return on investment of its 'Prevention of Drug-Related Harm' contract with Health NZ's National Public Health Service.
19. You may wish to ask the NZ Drug Foundation about the key highlights from the report and if there is an opportunity to share it with your office and the Ministry before it is published.



Michael Woodside
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Suicide Prevention Strategy & Policy
Clinical, Community and Mental Health |
Te Pou Whakakaha

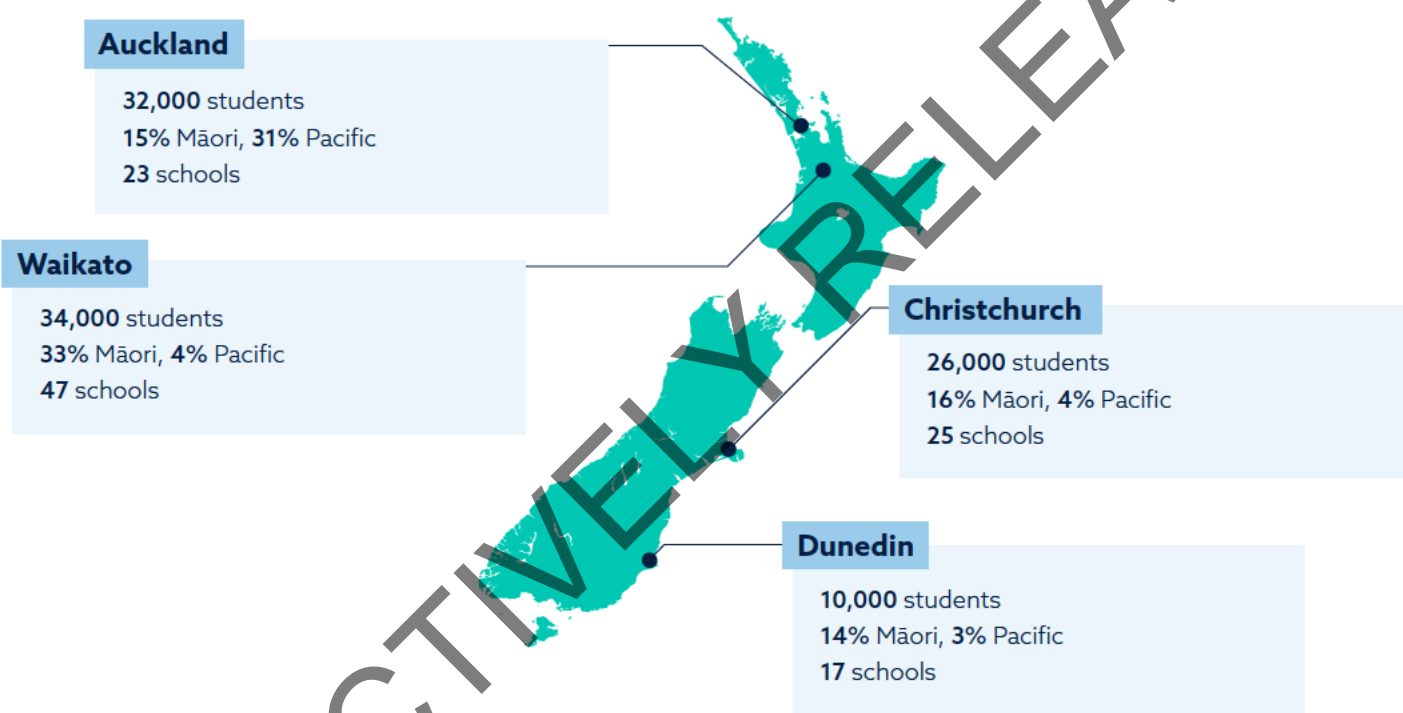
Appendix A: Tūturu Infographic August 2024

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Coverage and demographics

Tūturu covers more than **100,000** students across **112** schools.

21% Māori, 13% Pacific.



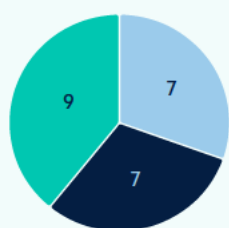
School Equity Index

81%

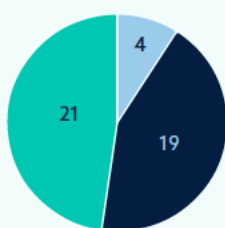
of schools we've engaged with have 'moderate' or 'more' socioeconomic barriers to achievement.

Socioeconomic barriers to achievement in schools we've engaged with

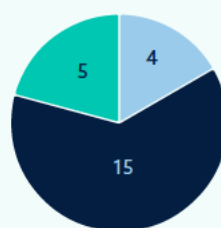
■ Fewer barriers ■ Moderate barriers ■ More barriers



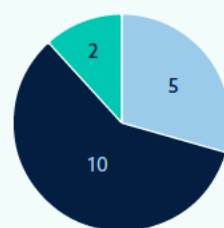
Auckland



Waikato



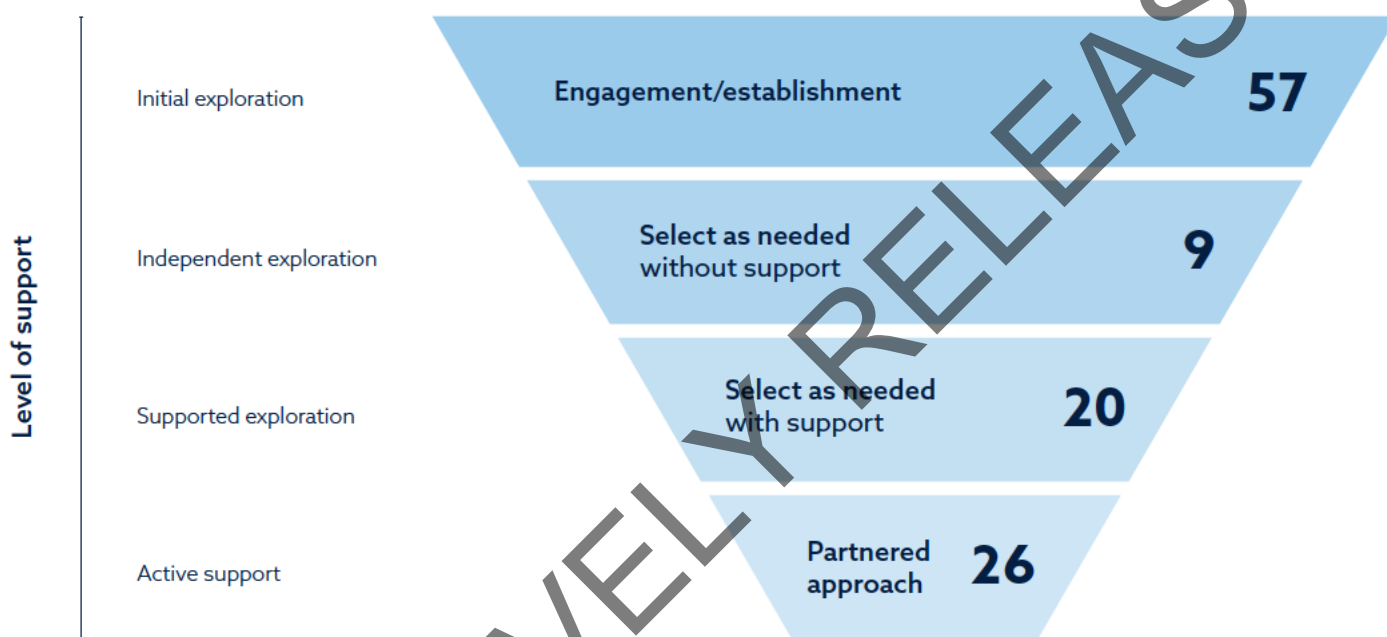
Christchurch



Dunedin

Phases of engagement with schools

Number of schools in each phase



Website engagement

In the last 12 months, we've had:



5,600

resources downloaded



14,000

unique visitors



127,000

pages visited