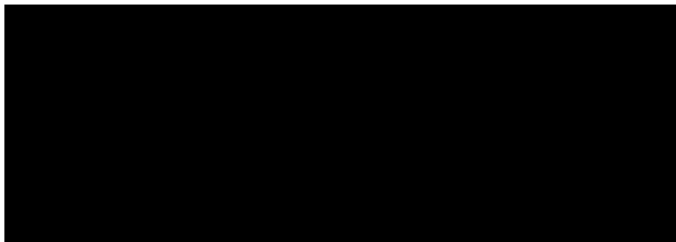


29 AUG 2019



Request for official information

Thank you for your request of 6 August 2019 to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC):

"...(1) Who were the successive Chairs of the committee, with their dates of service?"

(2) The Annual Report of the National Health Committee for the year ended 30 June 2014 stated that "three of the Committee's membership constitute the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)". Who were these three people?

(3) What were the dates of the meetings of the PHAC between 2008 and 2016?"

Please find your full request attached to this letter. I will answer your request in three parts.

1. *"Who were the successive Chairs of the committee, with their dates of service?"*

The chairs of PHAC from its establishment in 2001 until its disestablishment in March 2016 were as follows:

2001-2002: Alastair Woodward
2002-2004: Kevin Hague
2004-2008: Geoff Fougere
2009-2010: Pauline Barnett
2010-2016: Anne Kolbe

You may be interested in the following publications available online that include memberships details of PHAC in 2003 and 2010:

<https://www.aapd.org/assets/1/7/NZImprovingChildOralHealth.pdf>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/assets/ResourceFinder/Healthy-places-healthy-lives-PHAC.pdf>

2. "The Annual Report of the National Health Committee for the year ended 30 June 2014 stated that "three of the Committee's membership constitute the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)". Who were these three people?"

The three Committee members were Anne Kolbe, Ross Laidlaw and Sharon Mariu.

3. "What were the dates of the meetings of the PHAC between 2008 and 2016?"

The Ministry has readily available information regarding some dates of the PHAC meetings in 2014 and all dates for the 2015 and 2016 meetings. Please find this information in the table below:

2014	2015	2016
25 March	4 February	2 February
30 September	4 March	4 March
16 December	31 March	
	6 May	
	10 June	
	28 July	
	2 September	
	29 September	
	3 November	
	18 November	
	8 December	

In order to provide you with the dates of the PHAC meetings between 2008 and 2013 and any other dates for 2014, Ministry staff would need to request archived files and manually check a significant amount of documents, or search through thousands of electronic document links. The Ministry has considered whether this information could be compiled given more time to respond, however the volume of collation required is such that the Ministry's ability to carry out its day-to-day work would be impaired. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions in this response.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Turner
Deputy Director-General
Office of the Director-General



6 August, 2019

Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health
Ministry of Health
Wellington

Dear Ashley

I have recently been taking an interest in arrangements for public health advice in New Zealand. As you will know, the Public Health Advisory Committee was established under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000. It was presumably disestablished along with the abolition of the National Health Committee in 2016.

I am finding it difficult to assess the work, and even the membership, of this committee during those 16 years. Please could you provide the following information, under the terms of the Official Information Act?

- (1) Who were the successive Chairs of the committee, with their dates of service?
- (2) The Annual Report of the National Health Committee for the year ended 30 June 2014 stated that "three of the Committee's membership constitute the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)". Who were these three people?
- (3) What were the dates of the meetings of the PHAC between 2008 and 2016?

With many thanks and best wishes

David Skegg
Emeritus Professor
University of Otago

