



Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

A Collection of Recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government Reports

Issue 72, 2019, August

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@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Public Health

[Too Clean or Not Too Clean?](#)

"This report outlines a more focused approach to hygiene – Targeted Hygiene – whereby the spread of infection is prevented by intervening at critical points to break the chain of

infection. Firstly, by focusing hygiene in the places and at the times that matter, Targeted Hygiene sustains exposure to the beneficial microbes required for a healthy microbiome. Secondly, it prevents infections which need treatment with antibiotics that can adversely affect the microbiome.” *Source: Royal Society for Public Health (UK)*

[WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2019](#)

"Many governments are making progress in the fight against tobacco, with 5 billion people today living in countries that have introduced smoking bans, graphic warnings on packaging and other effective tobacco control measures - four times more people than a decade ago. The focus of the latest report is on the progress countries have made to help tobacco users quit." *Source: WHO*

[‘Smokefree 2025’ goal awareness and support among 14 and 15-year-olds: Results from the 2018 Youth Insights Survey](#)

"This brief report describes the awareness and support for the ‘Smokefree 2025’ goal among 14 and 15-year-olds who participated in the 2018 Youth Insights Survey (YIS). It also shows trends in awareness of the ‘Smokefree 2025’ goal by ethnicity between 2012 and 2018.” *Source: Health Promotion Agency*

[Preventing domestic and family violence: action research reports from five Australian local government councils](#)

"The volume is intended for DFV [Domestic and Family Violence] prevention practitioners in local government and other community services. It provides insights into DFV prevention work in the local government context. It also demonstrates the use of action research as a means of integrating evaluation processes and continuous improvement into everyday DFV prevention work.” *Source: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety*

[Our Future in the Land](#)

"Our Future in the Land offers a compelling, urgent but ultimately optimistic account of how we make our systems of food and farming and rural governance fit for the immense challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.” *Source: Food, Farming & Countryside Commission*

[How to implement seasonal influenza vaccination of health workers](#)

"This manual serves as a resource to assist users in establishing a national policy for seasonal influenza vaccination of health workers. It provides guidance along with a catalogue of available tools to facilitate policy development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of influenza vaccination of health workers.” *Source: WHO*

[The effect of gambling marketing and advertising on children, young people and vulnerable adults](#)

"The interim results in this report suggest that between 2015-2018, the volume and spend on gambling marketing and advertising is rising across different forms of media, including TV and radio, with lotteries and bookmakers among the top spenders. Sports advertising was particularly dominant online, with exposure compounded further by sponsorship used within broadcasts of live events.” *Source: Ipsos MORI (UK)*

[Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water: An Update on Drinking Water Protection in BC and the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia](#)

“The government’s Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water sets out specific principles and actions that the government will undertake to make sure British Columbians enjoy safe, clean, healthy drinking water as effectively, efficiently and reliably as possible.” *Source: Ministry of Health Services (British Columbia, Canada)*

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Cancer

[Guiding Cancer Control: A Path to Transformation](#)

“Guiding Cancer Control defines the key principles, attributes, methods, and tools needed to achieve the goal of implementing an effective national cancer control plan. This report describes the current structure of cancer control from a local to global scale, identifies necessary goals for the system, and formulates the path towards integrated disease control systems and a cancer-free future. This framework is a crucial step in establishing an effective, efficient, and accountable system for controlling cancer and other diseases.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Advancing Progress in the Development of Combination Cancer Therapies with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors](#)

“To examine the challenges and opportunities to develop combination cancer therapies that include immune checkpoint inhibitors, the National Cancer Policy Forum held a workshop on July 16–17, 2018, in Washington, DC. This workshop convened stakeholders with a broad range of expertise, including cancer researchers, clinicians, patient advocates, and representatives from industry, academia, and government. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Improving Cancer Diagnosis and Care: Clinical Application of Computational Methods in Precision Oncology: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“To examine opportunities to improve cancer diagnosis and care in the new precision oncology era, the National Cancer Policy Forum developed a two-workshop series. The first workshop focused on patient access to expertise and technologies in oncologic imaging and pathology and was held in February 2018. The second workshop, conducted in collaboration with the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, was held in October 2018 to examine the use of multidimensional data derived from patients with cancer, and the computational methods that analyze these data to inform cancer treatment decisions. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the second workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Patient insights on cancer care: opportunities for improving efficiency](#)

“With insights from almost 4,000 patients, this report highlights four key opportunities to drive change for everyone affected by cancer.” *Source: All.Can*

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Current Status and Response to the Global Obesity Pandemic](#)

“The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop on October 9, 2018 to address the status of the global obesity pandemic and discuss diverse approaches to manage this problem. Speakers examined the collective prevalence, costs, and drivers of obesity around the world using cross-cultural comparisons. Panels and group discussions emphasized the need to reduce disparities in prevention and treatment efforts and to generate new policy and system initiatives related to nutrition and physical activity worldwide. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[A Health Equity Approach to Obesity Efforts](#)

“On April 1, 2019, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a public workshop, A Health Equity Approach to Obesity Efforts, in Washington, DC. The workshop explored the history of health equity issues in demographic groups that have above-average obesity risk, and considered principles and approaches to address these issues as part of obesity prevention and treatment efforts.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Moving Matters - Interventions To Increase Physical Activity](#)

“This review focuses on National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded research evaluating interventions to increase physical activity for individuals and populations. This features over 50 published and ongoing studies. Evaluations range from programmes in schools and communities to changes in transport and the environment, which are designed to promote greater activity.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research (UK)*

[Active travel: Trends, policy and funding](#)

“Active travel means making journeys by physically active means, like walking or cycling. The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, published in 2017, is the Government’s strategy to promote walking and cycling in England. Given active travel is a devolved policy area, this briefing relates primarily to active travel policies in England.” *Source: House of Commons Library (UK)*

[Health on the Shelf](#)

“Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) and Slimming World worked in partnership to research the impact that supermarkets are having on the UK’s obesity epidemic. The aim is to raise awareness of how supermarkets can be part of a solution to support people to lead healthier lives through their marketing and sales tactics, and by encouraging customers to choose healthy food and drink purchases.” *Source: Royal Society for Public Health*

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Child & Youth Wellbeing

[Vibrant and Healthy Kids: Aligning Science, Practice, and Policy to Advance Health Equity](#)

“This report provides a brief overview of stressors that affect childhood development and health, a framework for applying current brain and development science to the real world, a roadmap for implementing tailored interventions, and recommendations about improving

systems to better align with our understanding of the significant impact of health equity.”
Source: National Academies Press

[Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth: Public Information-Gathering Session](#)

“The Committee on Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth is conducting a study to identify key components of youth-serving programs that have proved successful in improving health outcomes related to adolescent behavior.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Mind the gap – unequal from the start: addressing inequalities utilising evidence from Growing Up in New Zealand](#)

“The findings from the Growing Up in New Zealand study demonstrate that Maori and Pasifika children experience the highest burden of socioeconomic disadvantage in their early years as well as an unequal burden of significant co-morbidities in terms of health and development throughout their life course. By the time they start school (at age 5 years) many are already falling behind their peers in terms of preparedness for formal education and readiness to engage in learning.” *Source: Growing Up in New Zealand*

[Left to their own devices: children's social media and mental health](#)

“The aim of this report is to both understand what children, young people and practitioners have to say about the impact of social media on mental health and wellbeing and to shed light on the social media experiences of vulnerable children.” *Source: Barnardos (UK)*

[Ngā Tikanga Whānaketanga – He Arotake Tuhinga](#)

“Ngā Tikanga Whānaketanga | He Arotake Tuhinga (document review on the principles of youth development) is a multidisciplinary synthesis of contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand research on youth development and wellbeing. It is one component of several strands of work that form a broader review of the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (YDSA).”
Source: Ara Taiohi

[The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth](#)

“This report examines the neurobiological and socio-behavioral science of adolescent development and outlines how this knowledge can be applied, both to promote adolescent well-being, resilience, and development, and to rectify structural barriers and inequalities in opportunity, enabling all adolescents to flourish.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[The impact of inequalities in the early years on outcomes over the life course: Using international evidence to identify creative policy solutions](#)

“Inequality in early life is one of the most significant risk factors throughout childhood and into adulthood across a range of domains, including poverty, poor health, low educational attainment, unemployment, reduced wellbeing, criminal behaviour and early death. A growing body of evidence from across a range of international jurisdictions supports the proposition that policy efforts to eradicate exposure to inequality during the earliest stages of life could have a dramatic effect on reducing negative outcomes across the life-course and improving longevity, wellbeing and life success.” *Source: Economic & Social Research Council (UK)*

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Technology

[Framework for Addressing Ethical Dimensions of Emerging and Innovative Biomedical Technologies](#)

“Framework for Addressing Ethical Dimensions of Emerging and Innovative Biomedical Technologies provides a synopsis of principal ethical commitments and core values that characterize the National Academies’ work in the domain of emerging biomedical technologies. This publication offers a synthesis of relevant National Academies’ reports.”

Source: National Academies Press

[Making the right choices: using data-driven technology to transform mental healthcare](#)

“This report examines the current landscape of data-driven technologies and their applications in mental healthcare, highlighting areas where these tools offer the most potential for the NHS and its patients.” *Source: Reform (UK)*

[Improving cyber security in the NHS](#)

“Given the well-reported pressure on health services, every effort should be made to harvest the benefits that technology can bring, but in order to do this it is essential that it be done not only safely, but also securely with the understanding that technology is not safe unless it is secure.” *Source: Imperial College London*

[Driving improvement through technology](#)

“Technology in health and care services is growing in importance. Digitally enabled care can offer significant benefits both to people who use services and those who run and deliver them. These case studies illustrate some of the developments in use and testing.” *Source: Care Quality Commission (UK)*

[Connecting the dots: digitally empowered pharmacists: Better medicine use by 2023, powered by digital health transformation](#)

“The vision of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia for what this ‘new normal’ looks like for pharmacists is straightforward: pharmacists with more information to better inform clinical decisions, and clinical care that is seamless, more customised, more effective and, most importantly, safer for Australians.” *Source: Pharmaceutical Society (Australia)*

[The effective and ethical development of Artificial Intelligence: an opportunity to improve our wellbeing](#)

“This project examined the potential that Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies have in enhancing Australia’s wellbeing, lifting the economy, improving environmental sustainability and creating a more equitable, inclusive and fair society. Placing society at the core of AI development, the report analyses the opportunities, challenges and prospects that AI technologies present, and explores considerations such as workforce, education, human rights and our regulatory environment.” *Source: Australian Council of Learned Academies*

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Mental Health

[Wellbeing recovery after mass shootings: information for the response to the Christchurch mosque attacks 2019](#)

“A rapid literature review undertaken suggests that mass shootings are more intensely traumatic than other disasters, but that the majority of those affected by mass shootings will be resilient.” *Source: Canterbury District Health Board*

[Overshadowed: the mental health needs of children and young people with learning disabilities](#)

“Those with learning disabilities are likely to need additional support in various aspects of their lives including to enjoy good mental health. However, young people with learning disabilities continue to face challenges and inequalities that speak volumes about how they are regarded by society.” *Source: Children & Young People’s Mental Health Coalition (UK)*

[Evaluation of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse teen and youth mental health first aid](#)

“This project reports on the evaluation of the teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) programs that were developed and delivered to be responsive to youth from CALD background.” *Source: Western Sydney University*

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Primary Care

[Understanding primary care networks](#)

“From 1 July 2019, all patients in England should be covered by a primary care network (PCN). PCNs are made up from groups of neighbouring general practices. New funding is being channelled through the networks to employ staff to deliver services to patients across the member practices. PCNs are not new legal bodies, but their formation requires existing providers of general practice to work together and to share funds on a scale not previously seen in UK general practice. The hope of national NHS leaders is that PCNs will improve the range and effectiveness of primary care services and boost the status of general practice within the wider NHS.” *Source: Health Foundation*

[Evaluation of Babylon GP at hand](#)

“Babylon GP at hand (BGPaH) is a general practice that substantially changed its model of care from a traditional practice in November 2017 to operate a ‘digital-first’ model – extending the geographical spread of registered patients by offering the option of a remote consultation with a GP.” *Source: Ipsos MORI (UK)*

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Drug & Alcohol Use

[Evaluation of New Zealand ‘P’ Pull](#)

“This evaluation report outlines the development of New Zealand ‘P’ Pull, a grassroots community approach to reducing the impact of problematic methamphetamine use.” *Source: Te Pou*

[The opioid epidemic in North America: implications for Australia](#)

“The opioid epidemic in North America has attracted considerable international concern because of the scale of the problem and the high rate of overdose deaths. This paper explores the factors that have contributed to the opioid epidemic in the United States and Canada, and reviews the current situation in Australia. This paper highlights the importance of being vigilant about the potential for similar problems in Australia, and continuing to monitor key indicators of opioid availability, use and harm.” *Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*

[Pain Management for People with Serious Illness in the Context of the Opioid Use Disorder Epidemic](#)

“Overlooked amid the intense focus on efforts to end the opioid use disorder epidemic is the perspective of clinicians who are experiencing a significant amount of daily tension as opioid regulations and restrictions have limited their ability to treat the pain of their patients facing serious illness. Increased public and clinician scrutiny of opioid use has resulted in patients with serious illness facing stigma and other challenges when filling prescriptions for their pain medications or obtaining the prescription in the first place. Thus clinicians, patients, and their families are caught between the responses to the opioid use disorder epidemic and the need to manage pain related to serious illness.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Health Research

[Virtual Clinical Trials: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

“On November 28-29, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop to investigate the current clinical trials system and explore the potential benefits and challenges of implementing virtual clinical trials as an enhanced alternative for the future. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[A recipe for action: using wider evidence for a healthier UK](#)

“It is increasingly recognised that addressing the current challenges facing people’s long-term health outcomes in the UK isn’t simply a problem of research translation and access to existing evidence. It is a more fundamental problem: the evidence relevant to population-level action for long-term population health benefit – and the support to produce such evidence – is limited. Producing such evidence requires current public health challenges to be viewed as social, economic, political and cultural phenomena. It requires a wider set of disciplines to be deployed to both understand and address the challenges effectively.” *Source: Health Foundation*

[Involving patients and the public in research](#)

“Patient and public involvement (PPI) has become increasingly widespread in research about healthcare. This learning report aims to build a better understanding of the role of PPI

in research, thereby helping ensure meaningful involvement that has tangible impacts and mitigate against undesired consequences.” *Source: The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute*

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Disability & Social Care

[Beyond 18: The Longitudinal Study on Leaving Care, Wave 3 Research Report](#)

“Beyond 18: The Longitudinal Study on Leaving Care was commissioned by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase understanding of young people’s experiences of leaving out-of-home care (OOHC).” *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

[Pathways of younger people entering permanent residential aged care](#)

“Aged care is generally provided on the basis of need, so sometimes it is used by even very young people. In permanent residential aged care, around 2,000 younger people (aged under 65) take up care every year. Their pathways into care are often short, but once in permanent care, their care needs vary considerably—from short stays due to palliative care to long stays due to common older age-related conditions.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Preparing Emerging Leaders for Alternative Futures in Health Systems Across Canada](#)

“While today’s health-system leaders have been successful in making many positive reforms, significant changes are still needed to ensure health systems are providing positive patient experiences, improving population health, and keeping per-capita costs manageable (i.e., achieving the triple aim). Further, there is a need to better align health systems with the realities of today and to equip them to be responsive to drivers of change that will shape the future of healthcare.” *Source: McMaster Health Forum (Canada)*

[Change or collapse: Lessons from the drive to reform health and social care in Northern Ireland](#)

“Three years after Rafael Bengoa’s blueprint for improving the Northern Irish health service, this report uses interviews with health service leaders in Northern Ireland as well as outside experts and clinicians to assess which factors are helping or hindering Northern Ireland’s efforts to change its health and social care system, finding that the political vacuum and culture of centralisation are impeding reform.” *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

[Community commissioning shaping public services through people power](#)

“This report seeks to re-define commissioning beyond this narrow focus on delivery of a service against an identified need and instead establish the principles and mechanisms through which a more open and empowering approach – community commissioning – could be established.” *Source: New Local Government Network (UK)*

[The history and purposes of private health insurance](#)

“This working paper provides context for policy makers as they confront [the private health insurance] industry’s woes. It highlights some of the deep-seated questions Australia needs to be asking. It provides a conceptual framework for justifying government intervention in the sector, particularly the case for further industry assistance, based on the dual role of PHI.”

Source: Grattan Institute (Australia)

[What a difference a place makes: the growing impact of health and wellbeing boards](#)

“This resource captures the achievements, challenges and learning from 22 effective health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) across the country, all of which are making good progress on integrating health and care, improving wellbeing and tackling the wider determinants of health.” *Source: Local Government Association (UK)*

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Quality & Safety

[The NHS Patient Safety Strategy](#)

“Patient safety is about maximising the things that go right and minimising the things that go wrong. It is integral to the NHS’ definition of quality in healthcare, alongside effectiveness and patient experience. This strategy sets out what the NHS will do to achieve its vision to continuously improve patient safety.” *Source: NHS Improvement*

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Health of Older People

[A home for the ages: planning for the future with age-friendly design](#)

“A Home for the Ages: Planning for the Future with Age-Friendly Design challenges the current failure in England to meet the need for housing that is suitable for the older generation. From making the current housing stock more accessible through to delivering specialised housing for people with significant care needs, there is currently a failure to build enough of all forms of age-friendly housing.” *Source: RIBA Architecture (UK)*

[Our solution: quality care for people living with dementia](#)

“The outcomes of the communique and summit provide the foundation for the next stages of this broader Dementia Australia initiative on raising the quality of dementia care through the creation of baseline and gold standards for quality dementia care.” *Source: Dementia Australia*

[A Dementia Strategy for Canada: Together We Aspire](#)

“Canada's first national dementia strategy sets out a vision for the future and identifies common principles and national objectives to help guide actions by all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, communities, families and individuals.” *Source: Government of Canada*

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Equity

[Ki te tahatū o te rangi: Normalising te reo Māori across non-traditional Māori language domains](#)

“Ki te tahatū o te rangi means ‘towards the horizon’. It captures the idea that under the Maihi Karauna, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTW) is seeking greater understanding of the mainstream sector on the uptake of te reo Māori within non-traditional Māori language domains and as such, will broaden its horizons to foster pathways to include all New Zealanders who wish to learn te reo Māori.” *Source: Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori*

[Health Equity Policy Tool. A framework to track policies for increasing health equity in the WHO European Region – Working document](#)

“The WHO Health Equity Policy Tool has been developed to support WHO Member States and partners to strengthen the implementation of these commitments and strategies through specific policy actions. To accelerate progress in reaching those being left behind because of poor health and in preventing others from falling behind, policy action is required that reaches not only the most vulnerable but also those disproportionately at risk of avoidable poor health.” *Source: WHO Europe*

[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#)

"An estimated 820 million people did not have enough to eat in 2018, up from 811 million in the previous year, which is the third year of increase in a row. This underscores the immense challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030, says a new edition of the annual The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World." *Source: WHO*

[Achieving the SDGs and ‘leaving no one behind’](#)

“The integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development poses special challenges for policy-makers worldwide. Interactions across the Agenda’s Goals and targets can have positive or negative effects on sustainable development and the realisation of the Agenda. These are known as ‘synergies’ and ‘trade-offs’. This paper aims to help governments and key stakeholders as they face up to these challenges.” *Source: Overseas Development Institute*

[MIF: Multidimensional Inequality Framework](#)

“The main objective of the project was to develop a robust and pragmatic inequality framework and toolkits to aid analysts, activists and practitioners. They build on the latest academic research on inequality, its measurement and existing frameworks, combined with practitioner, activist and policy expertise held within Oxfam, to produce a theoretically grounded yet practical framework which allows researchers and practitioners to take a systematic approach to measuring and understanding inequalities, and devising effective inequality reduction programmes and strategies.” *Source: Atlantic Fellows (UK)*

[Driving forward health equity – the role of accountability, policy coherence, social participation and empowerment](#)

“Each of these social and institutional factors drive health equity on their own, but are dynamic and interact with each other. The expert review suggests that this interaction among drivers is particularly powerful in empowering people and communities to engage actively with decisions affecting their health and its determinants and thereby reducing inequities in both.” *Source: WHO*

[The Nightingale: Time to get serious about addressing the social, behavioural and environmental influences on health](#)

The authors “propose a new centre of innovation and research excellence to turn this ambition into reality, drawing expertise from across public health and behavioural and social sciences, with the best practices from human-centred design, citizen science and asset-based community development.” *Source: Nesta (UK)*

[Promoting Health and Well-Being through Social Inclusion in Toronto: Synthesis of international and local evidence and implications for future action](#)

“Social inclusion is increasingly being recognized as a social determinant of health. Though there is no singular definition of social inclusion, there is general understanding that a socially inclusive society is one in which people feel valued, their differences and rights are respected, and their basic needs are met so that they can live in dignity, and have their voices heard.” *Source: Wellesley Institute (Canada)*

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