



Ministry of Health Library

# Grey Matter

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

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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 hone in on their key areas of interest. Email [library@moh.govt.nz](mailto:library@moh.govt.nz) to subscribe.

Click on any of the bulleted points below to go to a section of interest.

[Health of Older People](#)

[Alcohol & Drug Use](#)

[Public Health](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Reducing Inequalities](#)

[Health Research & Information](#)

[Health Workforce](#)

[Quality & Safety](#)

[Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms](#)

[End of Life Care](#)

[Social Care](#)

### Health of Older People

#### [Changing risk behaviours and promoting cognitive health in older adults](#)

"A summary of reviews supporting the commissioning of interventions across a range of health behaviours for older adults." *Source: Public Health England*

#### [cycle BOOM: Design for Lifelong Health and Wellbeing](#)

“cycle BOOM was a study to understand cycling among the older population and how this affected independence, health and wellbeing. The ultimate aim was to advise policy makers and practitioners how our environment and technologies could be designed to help people to continue to cycle in older age or to reconnect with cycling.” *Source: cycle BOOM*

### **Behavioural Symptoms of Dementia: Care for Patients in Hospitals and Residents in Long-Term Care Homes**

“This quality standard addresses care of behavioural symptoms for people living with dementia. It focuses on care for people who are in an emergency department, admitted to a hospital, or in a long-term care home.” *Source: Health Quality Ontario*

### **The Dialectics of Dementia**

“[The authors] build on Bender’s (2003: 55-79) analysis of why the biomedical model of dementia is so persistent, despite its evident weaknesses (which [the authors] review below). Bender attributed the strength of the biomedical model of dementia to six factors. The first is changing demography and the expectations that costs of care will rise. The second is fear of dementia and the desire for a cure that this fear promotes. The third is the resource needs of ‘Cinderella’ disciplines like old-age psychiatry and geriatric medicine, while the fourth is the shift towards organic, ‘brain disease’ explanatory models within wider psychiatry. The fifth factor is the interest of universities in framing problems in particular ways so that they can then solve them, and the sixth is the profit-seeking ethos of the pharmaceutical industry.” *Source: King’s College London*

[Back to top](#)

## **Public Health**

### **Why sleep matters — the economic costs of insufficient sleep**

“Given the potential adverse effects of insufficient sleep on health, well-being and productivity, the consequences of sleep-deprivation have far-reaching economic consequences. Hence, in order to raise awareness of the scale of insufficient sleep as a public-health issue, comparative quantitative figures need to be provided for policy- and decision-makers, as well as recommendations and potential solutions that can help tackling the problem.” *Source: Rand*

### **2016 Surgeon General's Report: E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults**

“E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product among youth in the United States. This timely report highlights the rapidly changing patterns of e-cigarette use among youth and young adults, assesses what we know about the health effects of using these products, and describes strategies that tobacco companies use to recruit our nation’s youth and young adults to try and continue using e-cigarettes. The report also outlines interventions that can be adopted to minimize the harm these products cause to our nation’s youth.” *Source: Office of the Surgeon General*

### **Expanding early interventions in family violence in Victoria**

“The project provides a qualitative snapshot of the early intervention landscape through the perspectives of specialist family violence practitioners and universal service providers in

education, early childhood and health settings, as well as women who have experienced family violence.” *Source: Domestic Violence Victoria*

### **[Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow](#)**

“Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow proposes a new population-centered framework to guide action and coordination among various, and sometimes competing, stakeholders in pursuit of improved eye and vision health and health equity in the United States. Building on the momentum of previous public health efforts, this report also introduces a model for action that highlights different levels of prevention activities across a range of stakeholders and provides specific examples of how population health strategies can be translated into cohesive areas for action at federal, state, and local levels.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[Beyond bushfires: community resilience and recovery - final report](#)**

“The Beyond Bushfires: Community Resilience and Recovery study was conducted to examine the impacts of the Black Saturday and related bushfires of February 2009 on community members’ physical and mental health and wellbeing. The results showed individual and community capacity to recover from a disaster experience and subsequent disruptions, and to adapt to changed lives and environments. There was progressive recovery at community level over time but there was also evidence of delayed impacts on individual mental health and extended impacts at five years post- bushfires. The results highlighted the influence of close friends and family, social networks and community groups, and natural environment on resilience and recovery.” *Source: University of Melbourne*

[Back to top](#)

## **Reducing Inequalities**

### **[Research to improve the up-take of service by people considered hard to reach: Synthesis of findings and a practical guide for service innovation](#)**

“The research took an ecosystems approach, highlighting how uptake of service emerges from interaction between a social service, a client and the client’s family, plus the wider service ecosystem.” *Source: Institute of Environmental Science and Research*

### **[The economic benefits of providing public housing and support to formerly homeless people](#)**

“The research examined the impact of programs providing social housing with support for people experiencing homelessness under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).” *Source: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute*

### **[Priority Evidence-Practice Gaps in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease Care](#)**

“The purpose of this project has been to engage key stakeholders in the use of aggregate continuous quality improvement (CQI) data to identify and address system-wide evidence-practice gaps in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Acute Rheumatic Fever/Rheumatic Heart Disease health care.” *Source: Menzies School of Health Research*

[Back to top](#)

## Health Workforce

### [Improving Care for People with Long Term Conditions](#)

“This policy document focuses on the essential role of the pharmacist as part of a multidisciplinary approach in tackling the challenges facing the NHS in treating and supporting people with long term conditions (LTCs). The recommendations in this policy are aimed at key stakeholders who have collective responsibility for ensuring the best care for individuals living with a LTC.” *Source: Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland*

### [By choice – not by chance: Supporting medical students towards future careers in general practice](#)

“‘By choice – not by chance’, which can be viewed below, looks at students experiences at medical school and shines the spotlight on the need to tackle long held views about general practice which is often perceived as a less valued career. It emphasises that change is key to making sure we have the GP workforce required to meet service and patient demands for the future.” *Source: Health Education England*

### [Managing doctors, doctors managing](#)

“This project, led by Professor Huw Davies and Dr Alison Powell of the University of St Andrews, aims to explore the perceptions that doctors and managers have of each other and their roles, using a national survey. Traditionally doctors have enjoyed considerable independence and autonomy, but the last twenty years have seen the growth of a different model of governance, which emphasises comparative data over personal clinical experience and brings clinical activities into the scope of formal governance and managerial relationships.” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

### [Caring for our frontline child protection workforce](#)

“Frontline child protection work is highly stressful, emotionally taxing and, at times, can result in secondary trauma. Additionally, statutory child protection organisations consistently experience high turnover and staff shortages, creating adverse workplace cultures and extra stress for their workforce. Consequently, there is a growing recognition of the need to develop organisational strategies to foster the wellbeing of the frontline child protection workforce. The aim of this paper is to offer some guidance to the management of child protection and related services by drawing on occupational health literature.” *Source: Child Family Community Australia*

[Back to top](#)

## Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

### [Realising the value: Ten key actions to put people and communities at the heart of health and wellbeing](#)

“This report sets out what the Realising the Value programme found about the difference person- and community-centred approaches can make – and what needs to happen to support their successful implementation and spread.” *Source: Nesta*

### [The challenge and potential of whole system flow](#)

“The aim of this report is to provide leaders and improvement teams in local health and social care economies across the UK with a guide to the activities, methods, approaches and skills that can help to improve flow across systems. It also describes the steps that policymakers and regulators at a national level need to take to create an environment that is conducive to change on this scale.” *Source: Health Foundation*

### **[Efficiency measurement in health systems](#)**

“The pursuit of efficiency is one of the central preoccupations of health policy-makers and managers, and justifiably so. Most immediately, inefficient care can lead to unnecessarily poor outcomes for patients, measured either in terms of their health improvement, or in their broader satisfaction with the health system. However, in order to improve efficiency we must first be able to measure it. So how can we ensure that our metrics are useful for policy-makers and managers? This book explores the state of the art relating to efficiency measurement in health systems and offers insights into the pitfalls and potential associated with various measurement techniques.” *Source: European Observatory*

### **[Designing for Public Services: a practical guide](#)**

“This guide brings together in one place a collection of practical tools and methods for using design in public services. Created by Nesta and IDEO as part of Design for Europe, it offers ways to do things differently by introducing the process of design thinking, and provides guidance on how to introduce this new approach into day-to-day work in the public sector.”  
*Source: Nesta*

[Back to top](#)

## **Social Care**

### **[The failure of privatised adult social care in England: what is to be done?](#)**

“This report looks at the growth in the market in adult social care in England and the problems which have resulted from this. It makes a number of recommendations to address the worst aspects of privatised provision.” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

### **[Workforce development for people with intellectual disabilities: the perspective from people with intellectual disabilities](#)**

“During 2016 the Foundation for people with learning disabilities were funded by HEE KSS to prepare report that would reflect the voice of individuals who have a intellectual disability and what they think about [their] workforce.” *Source: Health Education England*

[Back to top](#)

## **Alcohol & Drug Use**

### **[The Public Health Burden of Alcohol and the Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Alcohol Control Policies: An evidence review](#)**

“Reflecting three key influencers of alcohol consumption – price (affordability), ease of purchase (availability) and the social norms around its consumption (acceptability) – an extensive array of policies have been developed with the primary aim of reducing the public

health burden of alcohol. The present review evaluates the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of each of these policy approaches.” *Source: Public Health England*

### **[Alcohol use and motivations for drinking among types of young adult illicit stimulant users](#)**

“Drinking among young adult users of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) during episodes of ecstasy and methamphetamine use is reported to have a number of possible functions, such as mitigating the unwanted effects of the drugs, enhancing intoxication and pleasure, and increasing drinking capacity. While there is evidence to suggest a high prevalence of risky drinking among users of ATS in Australia, little is known about how they combine their use of ATS with the consumption of alcohol or why they do so. This paper considers how ATS users consume alcohol during ecstasy and methamphetamine use, and also addresses alcohol abuse and dependence among low-risk and at-risk ATS users.” *Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*

### **[The Frontline Battle: An Inquiry into the Impact of Alcohol on Emergency Services by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm](#)**

“The Frontline Battle is an inquiry by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm into the impact of alcohol on Emergency Services. The report reveals the full extent of the pressures and dangers of alcohol related problems placed on our Emergency Services discussing the impact on staff, the impact on service provisions and the effect on time and resources.” *Source: Alcohol Concern*

[Back to top](#)

## **Mental Health**

### **[Closing the Loop: A Person-Centred Approach to Primary Mental Health and Addictions Support](#)**

“Closing the Loop articulates a future vision of primary care-based mental health services that draw together the skills and resources of all the relevant agencies to transform a reactive, transactional system of treatment to a holistic, person-centered, responsive system of care and support.” *Source: Closing the Loop*

### **[Raising the bar for youth suicide prevention](#)**

“Titled ‘Raising the bar for youth suicide prevention’, the report is a culmination of an extensive program of work conducted throughout 2016 by Orygen in consultation with the Australian youth mental health and suicide prevention sectors and in partnership with young people themselves.” *Source: Orygen*

### **[What really matters in children and young people’s mental health](#)**

“The report, led by Baroness Claire Tyler of Enfield, calls for fundamental changes to be made to how child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) are delivered. Significantly, the report recommends that schools should be able to teach children and young people about mental health in the same way they teach them about literacy or numeracy.” *Source: Royal College of Psychiatrists*



### [Farmers' sense of place and mental wellbeing in an era of rapid climate change: A case study in the Western Australian Wheatbelt](#)

“The thesis findings reveal that farmers’ sense of place is a powerful determinant of their mental health and wellbeing. In addition, climate change was found to undermine farmers’ place-related mental wellbeing as a consequence of its negative impacts upon farmers’ homelands and their broader regional socio-ecological contexts. The thesis offers novel insights into Australian farmers’ sense of place and its importance for their mental health and wellbeing in particular, and, more generally, contributes new theoretical and applied research understandings of people-place relationships and their relevance to mental health and wellbeing in an era of chronic and worsening climatic change.” *Source: Murdoch University*

[Back to top](#)

## **Health Research & Information**

### [Big Data and Analytics for Infectious Disease Research, Operations, and Policy: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“In order to explore some of the opportunities and issues associated with the scientific, policy, and operational aspects of big data in relation to microbial threats and public health, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop in May 2016. Participants discussed a range of topics including preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious disease threats using big data and related analytics; varieties of data (including demographic, geospatial, behavioral, syndromic, and laboratory) and their broader applications; means to improve their collection, processing, utility, and validation; and approaches that can be learned from other sectors to inform big data strategies for infectious disease research, operations, and policy. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda](#)

“Communicating Science Effectively offers a research agenda for science communicators and researchers seeking to apply this research and fill gaps in knowledge about how to communicate effectively about science, focusing in particular on issues that are contentious in the public sphere. To inform this research agenda, this publication identifies important influences – psychological, economic, political, social, cultural, and media-related – on how science related to such issues is understood, perceived, and used.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [The Whānau Rangatiratanga Frameworks: Approaching whānau wellbeing from within Te Ao Māori](#)

“This paper maps the development of the Whānau Rangatiratanga Frameworks. There are two separate frameworks – a conceptual framework and a measurement framework.” *Source: Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit*

[Back to top](#)

## **Quality & Safety**

### [Global Guidelines for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infection](#)

“The aim of these guidelines is to provide a comprehensive range of evidence-based recommendations for interventions to be applied during the pre-, intra- and postoperative periods for the prevention of SSI, while also considering aspects related to resource availability and values and preferences.” *Source: WHO*

[Back to top](#)

## **End of Life Care**

### [End of life care for infants, children and young people with life-limiting conditions: planning and management](#)

“This guideline covers the planning and management of end of life and palliative care in for infants, children and young people (aged 0–17 years) with life-limiting conditions. It aims to involve children, young people and their families in decisions about their care, and improve the support that is available to them throughout their lives.” *Source: NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence UK)*

[Back to top](#)

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