



Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

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

Issue 47, 2017, July

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 to subscribe.

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

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

[Mental Health](#)

[Public & Global Health](#)

[Child, Youth, & Maternal Health](#)

[Cancer](#)

[Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity](#)

[Drug & Alcohol Use](#)

[Health Information, Research & Technology](#)

[Primary Care](#)

[Health Equity](#)

[Health of Older People](#)

[Quality & Safety](#)

[Workforce](#)

Health Systems, Costs, & Reform

[International Profiles of Health Care Systems](#)

"This publication presents overviews of the health care systems of Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, England, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New

Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States. Each overview covers health insurance, public and private financing, health system organization and governance, health care quality and coordination, disparities, efficiency and integration, use of information technology and evidence-based practice, cost containment, and recent reforms and innovations.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

Towards affordable healthcare: Why effective innovation is key

“As one of the largest components of age-related public spending, healthcare is at the forefront of the challenge of ageing. While ensuring that we have a good healthcare system that requires continual improvements in the quality of services for users, it also requires improvements in the efficiency of the system to ensure its long run survival. In this regard, this report demonstrates why supporting long run productivity growth in healthcare is likely to be one, if not the, most important ingredient in ensuring a sustainable older society.” *Source: International Longevity Centre UK*

World Report on Health Policy and Systems Research

“The first-ever, World Report on Health Policy and Systems Research, was launched today at a special meeting, organized to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the inception of the Alliance. The meeting was co-hosted by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.”

Source: WHO

Future trends in health care expenditure: A modelling framework for cross-country forecasts

“Across the OECD, healthcare spending has typically outpaced economic growth in recent decades. While such spending has improved health outcomes, there are concerns about the financial sustainability of this upward trend, particularly as healthcare systems are predominantly funded from public resources in most OECD countries. To better explore this financial sustainability challenge, many countries and international institutions have developed forecasting models to project growth in future healthcare expenditure. Despite methodological differences between forecasting approaches, a common set of healthcare spending drivers can be identified. Demographic factors, rising incomes, technological progress, productivity in the healthcare sector compared to the general economy (Baumol’s cost disease) and associated healthcare policies have all been shown to be key determinants of healthcare spending.” *Source: OECD*

Health and social care integration: roundtable write-up

“This paper summarises the discussions from two roundtable events held in January and March 2017 with officers, practitioners, elected members and thought leaders from local government and health. The discussions focused on the challenges of implementing an integrated approach to health and social care.” *Source: New Local Government Network (UK)*

Preventive health: how much does Australia spend and is it enough?

“The report examines trends in preventive health spending, comparing Australia’s spending on preventive health, as well as the funding models used, against selected Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.” *Source: La Trobe University Department of Public Health*

[MND costs: exploring the financial impact of motor neurone disease](#)

“This report explores a hidden side of a devastating terminal illness: the financial impact of motor neurone disease (MND).” *Source: Demos (United Kingdom)*

[Enabling Change Through Communities of Practice](#)

“National Voices set out to explore and test how communities of practice could facilitate the spread of large-scale change across England’s voluntary sector working for health and wellbeing. This report shares reflections on this project, and in the spirit of communities of practice, aims to share reflections in order that others can use the learning.” *Source: National Voices*

[Back to top](#)

Mental Health

[Working well: A workplace guide to mental health](#)

“The guide is designed as a resource for human resources professionals, health and safety managers, occupational health and wellbeing professionals and business managers who want to proactively understand, measure and increase mental wellbeing in their workplaces.” *Source: Mental Health Foundation (New Zealand)*

[The economic value of informal mental health caring in Australia](#)

“The aims of this project were to: provide a profile of mental health carers and the types of care provided; estimate the replacement cost of informal mental health care; estimate bed-based service replacement costs; review current government spending on mental health carers and unmet support needs.” *Source: Mind Australia*

[Moving Toward Value-Based Payment for Medicaid Behavioral Health Services](#)

“This brief, produced with support from the California Health Care Foundation, describes how innovative states and Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) are building on models developed for physical health services and incorporating VBP arrangements into behavioral health programs. It profiles innovative approaches in five states — Arizona, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee — and focuses on key implementation challenges related to quality measurement, provider capacity, oversight considerations, and privacy and data-sharing constraints. Lastly, it highlights considerations to help states advance these models, including suggestions to support MCOs and providers with more effective program implementation.” *Source: Center for Health Care Strategies*

[Back to top](#)

Public & Global Health

[Community Violence as a Population Health Issue: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“[This] workshop highlighted examples of community-based organizations using trauma-informed approaches to treat violence and build safe and healthy communities.

Presentations showcased examples that can serve as models in different sectors and communities and shared lessons learned. This publication summarizes the presentation and discussion of the event.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation](#)

“The report examines the interactions between the various goals and targets, determining to what extent they reinforce or conflict with each other. It provides a blueprint to help countries implement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” *Source: International Council for Science*

[Radiofrequency electromagnetic energy and health: research needs](#)

“There is currently no established evidence that exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic energy (EME) at levels below the safety limits of the Australian RF Standard causes any health effects. However there are gaps in the knowledge that require further research. This report uses information from the latest reviews on RF and health to outline research needs in this area” *Source: Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency*

[Countering Violent Extremism Through Public Health Practice: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“Countering violent extremism consists of various prevention and intervention approaches to increase the resilience of communities and individuals to radicalization toward violent extremism, to provide nonviolent avenues for expressing grievances, and to educate communities about the threat of recruitment and radicalization to violence. To explore the application of health approaches in community-level strategies to countering violent extremism and radicalization, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a public workshop in September 2016.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Protecting the Health and Well-Being of Communities in a Changing Climate: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief](#)

“On March 13, 2017, the Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine and the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement held a 1-day public workshop at the National Academy of Sciences building in Washington, DC. Participants discussed regional, state, and local efforts to mitigate and adapt to health challenges arising from climate change, ranging from heat to rising water. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Building Communication Capacity to Counter Infectious Disease Threats: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“To learn about current national and international efforts to develop the capacity to communicate effectively during times of infectious disease outbreaks, and to explore gaps in the research agenda that may help address communication needs to advance the field, the Forum on Microbial Threats of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a 1.5 day workshop on December 13 and 14, 2016, in Washington, DC. Participants reviewed progress and needs in strengthening communication capacity for dealing with infectious disease threats for both outbreaks and routine challenges in the United States and abroad. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

Child, Youth, & Maternal Health

[Journeys of resilience : from adverse childhood to achieving adulthood](#)

“At the request of the Minister for Social Development, Superu commissioned research on the importance of resilience in helping children and adults respond to adversity. [The] research specifically looks at how many at-risk children go on to achieve good employment and education outcomes, and investigates the key factors that contribute to these good outcomes.” *Source: Social Policy and Evaluation Research Unit*

[Now We Are Four: Describing the preschool years](#)

“Now we are Four gives us a comprehensive look at how kiwi kids from the Growing Up in New Zealand study are faring. In particular, we can see how the situation of mothers changes when children pass from infancy to early childhood. The biggest shift for most children is that they now attend early childhood education, and most are reported to be generally happy and healthy and spending time getting to know their peers. This means that we also see greater employment of mothers, leading to improved economic circumstances for these households.” *Source: Growing Up in New Zealand*

[Implementing Evidence-Based Prevention by Communities to Promote Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health in Children: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“Given the importance of communities in shaping the health and well being of young people, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a workshop in June 2016, to examine the implementation of evidence- based prevention by communities. Participants examined questions related to scaling up, managing, and sustaining science in communities. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Building the future: children and the sustainable development goals in rich countries](#)

“Issued by the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries is the first report to assess the status of children in 41 high-income countries of the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified as most important for child well-being. It ranks countries based on their performance and details the challenges and opportunities that advanced economies face in achieving global commitments to children.” *Source: UNICEF*

[Building independence through planning for transition: A quick guide for practitioners supporting young people](#)

“Transition to adults’ services can be a difficult time for young people. They need support and reassurance to help them move on to a more independent life. This quick guide explains how early planning and access to the right information can help young people and their families to make the right choices. It will be of interest to all practitioners who support young people as they move from children’s to adults’ services.” *Source: Social Care Institute for Excellence*

[Back to top](#)

Cancer

[WHO list of priority medical devices for cancer management](#)

“This publication addresses medical devices that can be used for management of cancer and specifically describes medical devices for six types of cancer: breast, cervical, colorectal, leukemia, lung and prostate. This publication is the outcome of a project developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the need for a model reference list of basic and priority medical devices required for cancer management, with the goal of increasing access to these medical devices especially in low- and middle-income countries.” *Source: WHO*

[Back to top](#)

Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Assessing the economic costs of unhealthy diets and low physical activity: an evidence review and proposed framework](#)

“Unhealthy diets and low physical activity contribute to many chronic diseases and disability; they are responsible for some 2 in 5 deaths worldwide and for about 30% of the global disease burden. Yet surprisingly little is known about the economic costs that these risk factors cause, both for health care and society more widely. This study pulls together the evidence about the economic burden that can be linked to unhealthy diets and low physical activity” *Source: European Observatory*

[Driving Action and Progress on Obesity Prevention and Treatment: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“After decades of increases in the obesity rate among U.S. adults and children, the rate recently has dropped among some populations, particularly young children. What are the factors responsible for these changes? How can promising trends be accelerated? What else needs to be known to end the epidemic of obesity in the United States? To examine these and other pressing questions, the Roundtable on Obesity Solutions, of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, held a workshop in September 2016.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Urban Green Space Interventions and Health. A review of impacts and effectiveness](#)

“There is a wide range of international agreements and commitments to enhance and support the establishment of green spaces in urban settings, as these are considered to provide a range of benefits to the urban population. Yet, little is known on the most effective ways to deliver urban interventions on green spaces, and how to make sure that the environmental, social and health benefits are maximized. To respond to this question, this new WHO report provides the results of an evidence review and an assessment of local case studies on urban green space interventions.” *Source: WHO*

[Ambitious, SMART commitments to address NCDs, overweight & obesity](#)

“The brief focuses on SMART commitments which target overweight & obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and identifies opportunities for ‘double-duty actions’. As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), “double-duty actions include interventions, programmes and policies that have the potential to simultaneously reduce the

risk or burden of both undernutrition (including wasting, stunting, and micronutrient deficiency or insufficiency) and overweight, obesity or diet-related NCDs (including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers). Double-duty actions leverage the coexistence of multiple forms of malnutrition and their shared drivers to offer integrated solutions.” *Source: World Cancer Research Fund International*

[Back to top](#)

Drug & Alcohol Use

[Attitudes to and awareness of alcohol pregnancy warning labels](#)

“This report presents descriptive results about attitudes to labels on alcohol products that warn against drinking in pregnancy (pregnancy warning labels) for all respondents. Results for awareness of pregnancy warning labels are presented for women aged 18 to 44 years.”
Source: Health Promotion Agency

[Attitudes to drinking in pregnancy](#)

“This report presents descriptive results about New Zealanders’ attitudes to drinking alcohol during pregnancy. The data are from the Attitudes and Behaviour towards Alcohol Survey (ABAS), which is a national survey of people aged 15 years and over about alcohol consumption patterns, alcohol-related behaviour, consequences of consuming alcohol, and attitudes.” *Source: Health Promotion Agency*

[Supply of Alcohol to Young People Aged Under 18 Years](#)

“The report presents descriptive results from three Health Promotion Agency (HPA) surveys about the attitudes and behaviour around supply of alcohol to young people aged under 18 years.” *Source: Health Promotion Agency*

[Drug Safety Testing at Festivals and Night Clubs](#)

“*Drug safety testing at festivals and night clubs* looks at how health harm related to drug use, particularly from stimulant ‘club drugs’ such as ecstasy, can be minimised in these specific environments.” *Source: Royal Society for Public Health (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

Health Information, Research & Technology

[Using evidence to inform social policy: The role of citizen-based analytics](#)

“This paper is the first in an occasional series arising from a research partnership between the Government of New Zealand and the European Commission, which is exploring the opportunities and challenges related to investing for better social outcomes arising from progress in data analytics and improved understandings of relevant human sciences.”
Source: Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor (New Zealand)

[From healthcare to homecare: the critical role of 5G in healthcare transformation](#)

“The healthcare industry needs to reduce costs and improve efficiency. Information technology holds the promise of reducing costs by providing care away from hospitals and closer to home; whereas increasingly detailed data can move from patients to centralized

healthcare repositories, allowing for efficiency gains in diagnosis and treatment. Next-generation networks will be pivotal in this transformation, providing transmission efficiency in an ecosystem of feedback and alerts, mobility and low latency.” *Source: Ericsson ConsumerLab*

[Exploring the State of the Science in the Field of Regenerative Medicine: Challenges of and Opportunities for Cellular Therapies: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“In October 2016, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a public workshop with the goal of developing a broad understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with regenerative medicine cellular therapies and related technologies. Participants explored the state of the science of cell-based regenerative therapies within the larger context of patient care and policy. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Improving the management of digital government](#)

“Making a Success of Digital Government, explored the development of digital government in several organisations, showing how working practices need to change so that service improvements can be catalysed by digital technology.” *Source: Institute for Government (United Kingdom)*

[Back to top](#)

Primary Care

[An Overview of Home-Based Primary Care: Learning from the Field](#)

“Successful home-based primary care practices optimize care by: fielding interdisciplinary teams, incorporating behavioral care and social supports into primary care, responding rapidly to urgent and acute care needs, offering palliative care, and supporting family members and caregivers.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

[Back to top](#)

Health Equity

[Improving Health Literacy](#)

“This policy briefing seeks to promote a shared understanding of what health literacy means, why it is important, and what can be done to improve it. It is intended primarily for doctors, but is of relevance to all healthcare professionals, healthcare managers, and to policy and decision makers across multiple sectors.” *Source: New Zealand Medical Association*

[Making Room for Health Equity: The role of CHCs in advocacy](#)

“Community Health Centres (CHCs) are well-positioned as advocates for health equity in Toronto due to their unique model of care. CHCs use advocacy strategies in two ways: they advocate for policy change and they integrate advocacy into service delivery. Their capacity to advocate for policy change is however constrained by a lack of dedicated resources, service delivery priorities, accountability to funders, and non-profit restrictions.” *Source: Wellesely Institute*

[Housing and Indigenous disability: lived experiences of housing and community infrastructure](#)

“This study investigated the interconnections between housing, community infrastructure and quality of life for Indigenous people living with disability. It incorporated three case studies from Yalata and Point Pearce in South Australia and Greater Geelong in Victoria that revealed poor health and disability are major issues facing the Indigenous populations in these areas. The research highlights the need for specialist facilities for Indigenous people with disability designed and built in consultation with the local community and stakeholders.”

Source: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

[Cities, the social economy and inclusive growth](#)

“The social economy constitutes a range of organisations that have a core social mission, different levels of participative and democratic control by members, and use financial surpluses or profits primarily to achieve their social missions. This research examined the actual and potential roles of the social economy in bringing about inclusive growth that generates more and better jobs in UK cities, particularly for people who are either in or at risk of poverty.” *Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

[Exploring Equity in Multisector Community Health Partnerships: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“Building on previous National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine workshops that explored how safe and healthy communities are a necessary component of health equity and efforts to improve population health, the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement wanted to explore how a variety of community-based organizations came together to achieve population health. To do so, the roundtable hosted a workshop in Oakland, California, on December 8, 2016, to explore multisector health partnerships that engage residents, reduce health disparities, and improve health and well-being. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity](#)

“Health inequities are in large part a result of historic and ongoing poverty, structural racism, and discrimination. Yet these inequities can be mitigated by policies and community action in powerful ways. A report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine offers promising approaches for promotion of health equity.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Back to top](#)

Health of Older People

[Preventing Cognitive Decline and Dementia: A Way Forward](#)

“Preventing Cognitive Decline and Dementia: A Way Forward assesses the current state of knowledge on interventions to prevent cognitive decline and dementia, and informs future research in this area. This report provides recommendations of appropriate content for inclusion in public health messages from the National Institute on Aging.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Community care for people with dementia: A handbook for policymakers](#)

“[The] handbook sets out to explore what constitutes good community care for people with dementia and to develop a concise overview of the knowledge-base that should ground future development and reorganization of community-based care arrangements for people with dementia.” *Source: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research*

[Future of Australia's aged care sector workforce](#)

“This inquiry was undertaken to review the current frameworks under which aged care providers recruit, train and retain their workforce, and to anticipate the impact of current and expected changes to the aged care service sector, and the workforce which will be needed to deliver those services in the years to come.” *Source: Senate Community Affairs References Committee*

[Loneliness and the aging population: How businesses and governments can address a looming crisis](#)

“To better understand the magnitude of this issue, current interventions and ideas for future solutions, [the authors] conducted 50 interviews with experts from six countries and representing a variety of disciplines. We gained unique insights from this global group of medical professionals, social workers, academic researchers, technologists, consumer and device manufacturing experts, software startups focused on the aging market, advocacy groups and government officials.” *Source: IBM Institute for Business Value*

[International aged care: a quick guide](#)

“This guide focuses on formal, government-approved care for older people. It does not cover informal care (such as care provided by relatives) or retirement villages.” *Source: Parliamentary Library (Australia)*

[Back to top](#)

Quality & Safety

[Tackling variations in clinical care: Assessing the Getting It Right First Time \(GIRFT\) programme](#)

“The Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme aims to bring about higher-quality care in hospitals, at lower cost, by reducing unwanted variations in services and practices.” *Source: King's Fund*

[Driving improvement: Case studies from eight NHS trusts](#)

“Driving improvement: Case studies from eight NHS trusts, reveals the journey of improvement travelled by eight trusts from the perspective of staff, patients and organisations that represent them, and highlights how engaging and empowering staff has been critical in driving up quality.” *Source: Care Quality Commission*

[The economics of patient safety: Strengthening a value-based approach to reducing patient harm at national level](#)

“The paper then examines how patient harm can be minimised effectively and efficiently. This is informed by a snapshot survey of a panel of eminent academic and policy experts in patient safety. System- and organisational-level initiatives were seen as vital to provide a

foundation for the more local interventions targeting specific types of harm. The overarching requirement was a culture conducive to safety.” *Source: OECD*

[Back to top](#)

Workforce

[Work & Wellbeing – Workforce Survey 2016](#)

“This report, Work and Wellbeing...looks at the hours members work (approximately half work part-time) and analyses how their time is spent. As expected, much of a GP’s work involves face-to-face consultations, but we also investigated how much time is given to paperwork and after-hours practice. In addition, we asked about the employment and voluntary commitments members have outside of their practice that relate to their expertise as doctors.” *Source: Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners*

[Ownership & Employment - Workforce Survey 2016](#)

“This report, Ownership and Employment...shows that despite predictions about the growing popularity of employment versus ownership, and about the growth of commercial ownership of general practices, the GP-owner model is still dominant.” *Source: Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners*

[Technology – Workforce Survey 2016](#)

“This report, Technology [sought] to find out what technology [college] members are using most often, and what risks or benefits they found in doing so.” *Source: Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners*

[Demographics, Training & Retirement - Workforce Survey 2016](#)

“This report, Demographics, Training & Retirement... provides information on some key issues which will become increasingly important in the coming years and decades.” *Source: Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners*

[Back to top](#)

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