



Ministry of Health Library

Knowledge for health

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

Issue 11, 2014 June

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.

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Global Health

[Antimicrobial resistance: global report on surveillance 2014](#)

"Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi. An increasing number of governments around the world are devoting efforts to a problem so serious that it threatens the achievements of modern medicine. A post-antibiotic era – in which common infections and minor injuries can kill – far from being an apocalyptic fantasy, is instead a very real possibility for the 21st Century." *Source: WHO*

[Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013](#)

"Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 Target 5A calls for the reduction of maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015. It has been a challenge to assess

the extent of progress due to the lack of reliable and accurate maternal mortality data – particularly in developing-country settings where maternal mortality is high. As part [of] ongoing efforts, the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division updated estimates of maternal mortality for the years 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2013.” *Source: WHO*

[Global status report on alcohol and health 2014](#)

“The Global status report on alcohol and health 2014 presents a comprehensive perspective on the global, regional and country consumption of alcohol, patterns of drinking, health consequences and policy responses in Member States.” *Source: WHO*

[Health for the World’s Adolescents](#)

“Health for the world’s adolescents is a dynamic, multimedia, online report. It describes why adolescents need specific attention, distinct from children and adults. It presents a global overview of adolescents’ health and health-related behaviours, including the latest data and trends, and discusses the determinants that influence their health and behaviours. It features adolescents’ own perspectives on their health needs.” *Source: WHO*

[Sexual and Gender-Based Violence : What is the World Bank Doing and What Have We Learned, A Strategic Review](#)

“This report is an effort to take stock of the experience of the World Bank in addressing SGBV, from 2008 to 2013, in order to capture lessons for engaging more strategically on this issue across the Bank portfolio.” *Source: World Bank*

[Assessing the burden of key infectious diseases affecting migrant populations in the EU/EEA](#)

“Migrant health is receiving increasing attention in Europe and is a priority for ECDC. This summary presents the main findings of an ECDC project to assess the burden of infectious diseases among migrants in the EU/EEA and the completeness, quality and usefulness of data collected by the European Surveillance System (TESSy).” *Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*

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Health Workforce

[Horizon 2035: International responses to big picture challenges](#)

“The question [the authors] are addressing in this paper is: are there examples of models of care in other countries that are similar to the big picture challenges facing the health and care workforce in England, and therefore should be considered in plausible scenarios for Horizon 2035?” *Source: Centre for Workforce Intelligence*

[Family Doctor Incentives: Getting Closer to the Sweet Spot](#)

“This briefing addresses the question: What is the best way to pay family doctors to get the best patient outcomes? It offers a number of guiding principles that should help policy-makers move closer to achieving the right incentive blend that will improve the quality of health care.” *Source: Conference Board of Canada*

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[New Medicines, Better Medicines, Better Use of Medicines](#)

“The guide, New Medicines, Better Medicines, Better Use of Medicines, developed by the Society’s Pharmaceutical Science Expert Advisory Panel, summarises the important role pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists have played and continue to play in the development and use of medicines.” *Source: Royal Pharmaceutical Society*

Unlocking skills in hospitals: Better jobs, more care

“Enabling less highly-trained hospital workers to play a bigger role could improve jobs for doctors and nurses, save public hospitals nearly \$430 million a year and fund treatment for more than 85,000 extra people. Doctors, nurses and allied health professionals such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists are all squandering their valuable skills on work that other people could do. It doesn’t take 15 years of training to provide light sedation for a stable patient having a simple procedure, or a three-year degree to help someone bathe or eat – but that is the situation in Australian hospitals today. This mismatch of skills and jobs is putting heavy pressure on hospitals when there are already long waiting lists for many treatments and demand is growing fast.” *Source: Grattan Institute*

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Health Systems, Reform, & Costs

New Zealand Health System Review

"New Zealand continues to have a predominantly tax-funded health system, providing universal coverage managed by the District Health Boards. The population enjoys high health status overall, but with significant inequalities in Māori and Pacific health. Current challenges for the health system include reducing inequalities in health, managing noncommunicable diseases and chronic conditions, reducing waiting times, improving productivity, and ensuring greater integration and coordination of services within and between primary and secondary care, and intersectorally with other social services." *Source: WHO*

Can we improve the health system with pay-for-performance?

“Pay-for-performance programs are meant to incentivise care that is safe, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable. However, very little convincing evidence exists connecting pay-for-performance programs to these goals despite the fact that pay-for-performance, and other financial incentive mechanisms, have been widely applied for many years now. This leaves a question mark over the value of these mechanisms.” *Source: Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association*

The NHS productivity challenge

“The unprecedented slowdown in the growth of NHS funding in England since 2010 has meant that the NHS has had to pursue the most ambitious programme of productivity improvement since its foundation in order to close the gap between need and available funding.” *Source: King’s Fund*

Comorbidities: A framework of principles for system-wide action

“This framework sets out the challenges for the wider health and care system in addressing comorbidities and proposes a set of interconnected principles to consider in the design of systems and services to prevent and treat comorbidities. Comorbidities are a helpful focus to bring different parts of the system together to address shared health concerns and prevent fragmentation.” *Source: UK Department of Health*

The importance of effective partnership working on health, safety and wellbeing

“This guidance document aims to raise the importance of partnership working on health, safety and wellbeing issues and to encourage partnership working at a local level.” *Source: NHS Employers*

Environmental sustainability in hospitals: the value of efficiency

“Hospital and care system leaders can use this guide as they move toward environmental sustainability. Executives can discuss the information and resources with their management teams to find an appropriate path toward sustainability that will lead to many benefits,

including greater efficiencies that contribute to the mission of patient care.” *Source: Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence*

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Improvement, Innovation, & Leadership

Developing collective leadership for health care

“This paper argues that collective leadership – as opposed to command-and-control structures – provides the optimum basis for caring cultures.” *Source: King’s Fund*

Improving Innovation Management Decision-Making: Thinking Like an Innovator

“This report examines the ways of thinking, questioning, and behaving that constitute managers’ decision-making patterns about innovation. It highlights decision-making techniques that firms could use to improve how they manage innovation processes.” *Source: Conference Board of Canada*

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Spreading improvement ideas: Tips from empirical research

“This evidence scan provides examples from the published empirical literature of techniques for spreading innovation and improvement. The focus is on identifying practical things that teams and organisations can do to publicise and spread new ideas and ways of working.”

Source: Health Foundation

Break on Through: Overcoming Barriers to Integration

“This report focuses on what local areas can do themselves to transform and how central government can support [integration efforts]. *Source: New Local Government Network*

Leadership: Easier Said than Done

“In this report we are looking in more detail at the barriers to leadership and good people management in practice.” *Source: CIPD*

Seizing the opportunity - ten new perspectives from healthcare leaders

“[The Foundation Trust] have asked leaders from the NHS, media and health policy to talk about how the NHS provider sector will change, what it can achieve and how it can further transform patient care and outcomes?” *Source: Foundation Trust Network*

Innovation Procurement for Medical Devices: Driving Health System Improvement

“When done strategically and through evidence, procurement of innovative medical devices can improve health outcomes without driving system costs. This report describes the different methods that can be and are being used to achieve these goals, and it provides concrete detail of each step of the procurement process through case studies from around the world.” *Source: Conference Board of Canada*

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Skilled for improvement? Learning communities and the skills needed to improve care: an evaluative service development

“The Learning Communities Initiative aimed to explore the use of organisational techniques such as learning communities and communities of practice. It set out to work with selected improvement groups in the NHS to help them learn collectively about proven improvement methods (‘improvement science’) and to examine how the learning process – and hence the enhancement of quality – could be better deployed in future improvement initiatives.”

Source: Health Foundation

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Health Data, Measures, & Methods

[Practical guide: A framework for measuring and monitoring safety](#)

“This guide introduces the framework and explains how it can help those working in the NHS answer the question ‘How safe is our care?’ and bring about constructive change. The guide describes some broad principles to bear in mind when using the framework and provides some prompts for each of the framework’s dimensions to help people focus on some of the main challenges to understanding safety.” *Source: Health Foundation*

[Estimating the cost of accidents and ill-health at work: A review of methodologies](#)

“The report focuses on different types of cost – productivity, healthcare, quality of life, administration and insurance – that emerge as a consequence of poor occupational safety and health. It also includes recommendations on how these costs should be estimated in the future to best inform policy-makers.” *Source: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work*

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Tobacco Control

[Vaporized: E-Cigarettes, Advertising, and Youth](#)

“Given concerns that e-cigarettes are being marketed to young people, Legacy recently commissioned two studies to expand the knowledge base regarding e-cigarette advertising and its impact on youth. The first study surveyed teenagers and young adults to learn more about their e-cigarette awareness, use, and advertising awareness. The second study analyzed e-cigarette media expenditure data to better understand whether and how e-cigarette advertising is reaching young people.” *Source: Legacy for Health*

[Electronic cigarettes: reports commissioned by PHE](#)

This work was “commissioned from leading academics examine the evidence on risks and opportunities.” *Source: Public Health England*

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Inequalities

[Our children, our choice: priorities for policy](#)

“This first part of the series focuses on the health of the poorest children in Aotearoa New Zealand. It closes with recommendations for better policies for our children.” *Source: Child Poverty Action Group*

[National key performance indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care: first national results June 2012 to June 2013](#)

“This report presents data for 19 ‘process of care’ and ‘health outcomes’ indicators which focus on the prevention and management of chronic disease, and maternal and child health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

[Recognising the importance of physical health in mental health and intellectual disability](#)

“For too long there has been an acceptance in society, and even in the medical profession, that people with mental health problems and intellectual disability will live shorter lives and will suffer because of unmet health needs... The aim of this report is to start to identify what actions need to be taken to support doctors and the medical profession in changing the status quo.” *Source: British Medical Association*

[Paediatric teledentistry: delivering oral health services to rural and regional children](#)

“This paper reports on a field trial, supported by Google, that used teledentistry to deliver specialist consultation to children in Victoria and pave the way for the application of teledentistry for paediatric patients.” *Source: Institute for a Broadband Enabled Society*

[Public health implications of the pSoBid study](#)

“The pSoBid study sought to examine associations between social deprivation and a variety of health indicators, and to incorporate a range of co-factors, with the aim of enhancing understanding of the relationships between social deprivation and ill health.” *Source: Glasgow Centre for Population Health*

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Health of Older People

[Transforming dementia care in hospitals - evaluation report](#)

“The Association for Dementia Studies (ADS) at the University of Worcester was commissioned to undertake an external evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme in developing practice and supporting improved outcomes for people with dementia, family carers and staff.” *Source: Royal College of Nursing*

[Future housing and support needs of people with dementia](#)

“This project aims to equip housing practitioners and policy-makers with new knowledge about the future housing and support needs of people with dementia.” *Source: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute*

[Looking forward to later life: taking an early action approach to ageing in our society](#)

“This report calls for a early action approach to preventative action and argues that this would result in a 'triple dividend' of improved lives, costing less, contributing more.” *Source: Community Links*

[Aged care in Australia: Part I – Policy, demand and funding](#)

“[This report] analyses the sector top-down, describing the policy landscape, as well as the demand for and funding of formal and informal aged care.” *Source: ARC Centre for Excellence in Population Ageing Research*

[Aged care in Australia: Part II – Industry and practice](#)

“[This report] analyses the sector bottom-up, describing care recipients, providers, the workforce, and access and quality issues.” *Source: ARC Centre for Excellence in Population Ageing Research*

[At a glance 65: Better Life for older people with high support needs: the role of social care](#)

“The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has identified seven key challenges to be addressed for older people with high support needs to achieve a better quality of life. Social care has a key role to play in meeting these challenges.” *Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

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Long-Term Conditions

[Why Asthma Still Kills: National Review of Asthma Deaths](#)

“Why asthma still kills calls for an end to the complacency around asthma care in order to save lives.” *Source: Royal College of Physicians*

[Hepatitis C and ageing: a community brief](#)

“This qualitative, interview-based research conducted with key clinical, community and bureaucratic stakeholders in the Australian hepatitis C sector aimed to identify key issues and challenges relating to ageing and hepatitis C to inform future research directions.”

Source: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society

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Cancer & End of Life Care

[Advance Care Directives](#)

“This paper summarises policies, and public debates, about end-of-life care in New South Wales.” *Source: NSW Parliamentary Research Service*

[National care of the dying audit for hospitals, England](#)

“The National Care of the Dying Audit for Hospitals, England, has found significant variations in care across hospitals in England. The audit shows that major improvements need to be made to ensure better care for dying people, and better support for their families, carers, friends and those important to them.” *Source: Royal College of Physicians*

[The Expanding Value Footprint of Oncology Treatments](#)

“This report examines the importance and history of HTA evaluations for additional uses for cancer drugs after their initial approval. Included are the ten cancer drugs approved by the EMA during 2003–2005. Decisions by France’s HAS, NICE and Aetna in the US are analysed.” *Source: Office for Health Economics*

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Mental Health & Addiction

[How do managers and leaders in the National Health Service and social care respond to service user involvement in mental health services in both its traditional and emergent forms? The ENSUE study](#)

“The aim of the present study was to find out how user involvement is faring currently.”

Source: National Institute for Health Research

[Pharmacotherapy for Adults With Alcohol-Use Disorders in Outpatient Settings](#)

“Acamprosate and oral naltrexone have the best evidence for improving alcohol consumption outcomes for patients with alcohol-use disorders. Head-to-head trials have not consistently established the superiority of one medication. Thus, other factors may guide medication choices, such as frequency of administration, potential adverse events, coexisting symptoms, and availability of treatments.” *Site: AHRQ*

['I am more than one thing'](#)

“This report builds on existing evidence to highlight women’s experiences of poor mental health and wellbeing and their interactions with the mental health system.” *Source: Positively UK*

[Creating a mentally healthy workplace: Return on investment analysis](#)

“This report outlines the technical background to the return on investment (ROI) analysis for creating a mentally healthy workplace. The aim of this analysis is to estimate the ROI for employers investing in a mentally healthy workplace.” *Source: PriceWaterhouseCoopers*

[The Elders’ Report into Preventing Indigenous Self-harm & Youth Suicide](#)

“Over the last 30 years, we have witnessed an escalating tragedy in modern Australia with more and more Indigenous Australians, in particular youth, taking or attempting to take their own lives. Almost non-existent before the 1980s, youth suicide across the entire top end of Australia has reached crisis proportions.” *Source: Be Part of the Healing*

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Patient and Public Empowerment

[Supporting people to manage their health: An introduction to patient activation](#)

“Drawing on US and UK-based evidence, the paper describes the robust patient-reported measure – the PAM – used to gauge patient activation. PAM measures an individual's knowledge, skill, and confidence for self-management.” *Source: King’s Fund*

[Power to the People: The mutual future of our National Health Service](#)

“[This report] argues that the key to saving one of our most valued institutions would be to move away from the bureaucratic and fragmented health system we currently have, towards an integrated system of healthcare provision that makes it possible to offer whole-person, holistic care to patients.” *Source: ResPublica*

[Turbo charging volunteering: co-production and public service reform](#)

“Written by the government’s independent reviewer of public services David Boyle, this report sets out ways that ‘co-production’ of services can be applied more widely in health, housing, social care and other contexts.” *Source: Centre Forum*

[Patient empowerment: for better quality, more sustainable health services globally](#)

“Underlying the whole report is the simple message that giving renewed emphasis and investment to patient empowerment at every level will help improve quality and make health systems more sustainable.” *Source: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health*

[Senior investigators: leaders for patient and public involvement in research](#)

“The exemplars in this publication confirm, Senior Investigators are indeed making a significant contribution to ensure we deliver on our commitment to fund and support research that is important to the needs of patients and the public by involving them every step of the way.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research*

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Food Policy Highlights from Around the World](#)

“Looking across international jurisdiction, this short document notes key food policy initiatives currently taking place.” *Source: World Cancer Research Fund*

[Recommendations towards a Global Convention to protect and promote healthy diets](#)

“This set of recommendations towards a Global Convention to protect and promote healthy diets has been developed to encourage policy makers to build on the work of the UN to combat obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).” *Source: Consumers International*

[The New Zealand Physical Activity Report Card for Children and Youth](#)

"The New Zealand Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Report Card for Children and Youth is an evidence-informed communications and advocacy piece that provides a comprehensive assessment of New Zealand national data on the status of physical activity and sedentary behaviour participation among children and youth. We aim to update the Report Card regularly." *Source: National Institute for Health Innovation*

[2014 Report Card on the Physical Activity of Children and Youth: Is Canada in the Running?](#)

"This is the 10th anniversary of the most current and comprehensive annual assessment of the physical activity of children and youth in Canada. For the first time, this Report Card reveals how Canada stacks up against 14 other countries." *Source: Active Healthy Kids Canada*

[Is sport enough? 2014 report card on physical activity for children and young people](#)

"Based on a Canadian initiative, this annual report provides information on the physical activity and sedentary behaviours of Australia's children and young people." *Source: Active Healthy Kids Australia*

[Managing overweight and obesity in adults – lifestyle weight management services](#)

"This guideline makes recommendations on the provision of effective multi-component lifestyle weight management services for adults who are overweight or obese (aged 18 and over). It covers weight management programmes, courses, clubs or groups that aim to change someone's behaviour to reduce their energy intake and encourage them to be physically active." *Source: NICE*

[Obesity Update 2014](#)

"The majority of the population, and one in five children, are overweight or obese in the OECD area. A nearly tenfold variation in rates of obesity and overweight is observed across OECD countries. The obesity epidemic has spread further in the past five years, but rates have been increasing at a slower pace than before." *Source: OECD*

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