



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

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### Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

#### [Driving commitment for nutrition within the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition](#)

"Achieving and sustaining on-the-ground reductions in malnutrition will require strong commitment from many people and organizations including policy-makers and governments, implementing agencies and teams, civil society groups, research institutions, businesses and communities. Such commitment does not come easily: it must be created, sustained

and strengthened over time. This policy brief sets out factors that drive commitment for nutrition, and is intended to guide actions that will increase commitment by all stakeholders.”

*Source: World Health Organization*

### **See It, Want It, Buy It, Eat It: How Food Advertising Is Associated With Unhealthy Eating Behaviours In 7 - 11 Year Old Children**

“This report examines the association between diet and HFSS (high in fat, salt and sugar) advertising both on television (live and ‘on-demand’) and the internet. Specifically, it tests whether commercial TV and online advertisements are linked to an increased likelihood for children to pester for, buy, and consume HFSS products. *Source: Cancer Research UK*

### **Nutrition across the life stages**

“The food we eat plays an important role in our health and wellbeing. Good nutrition contributes to quality of life, helps maintain healthy body weight, protects against infection, and reduces the risk of chronic conditions and premature death. Chronic conditions—often linked with a poor diet—are the major cause of ill health in Australia.” *Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

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## **Public Health**

### **Antimicrobial resistance**

“This report states that tackling antimicrobial resistance needs to be established as a ‘top five policy priority’ for the government in order to help prevent the virtual loss of worldwide modern medicine. No new classes of antibiotics have been developed for decades. Investment in basic scientific research is essential but so too is the investment by pharmaceutical companies in further development and bringing products to the market.”

*Source: House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee (UK)*

### **Flu vaccination programme in England**

“This report examines the planning for the flu vaccination programme, how advice is formulated and cost-effectiveness issues are addressed, the reasons for different types of vaccines for different groups of the population, the effectiveness and take-up of the vaccination programme, and any plans for adjustments for the next flu season in terms of the vaccines uses and groups targeted.” *Source: House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (UK)*

### **Improving people’s health: applying behavioural and social sciences to improve population health and wellbeing in England**

“Improving People’s Health: Applying behavioural and social sciences to improve population health and wellbeing in England aims to enable public health professionals to engage with and apply the insights, methodologies and knowledge of behavioural and social sciences to their work on protecting and improving the health of the people. As a high-level guide, it provides a framework and consolidates a suite of relevant resources to help achieve this.”

*Source: Public Health England*

### **Medical Product Shortages During Disasters: Opportunities to Predict, Prevent, and Respond: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief**

“In response to the shortage of intravenous (IV) saline solution that was exacerbated during the 2017 hurricane season, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to convene a workshop to better understand the gaps that led to cascading effects in patient care throughout the U.S. health care system. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **Understanding the Economics of Microbial Threats: Proceedings of a Workshop**

“To assess the current understanding of the interaction of infectious disease threats with economic activity and suggest potential new areas of research, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine planned a 1.5-day public workshop on understanding the economics of microbial threats. This workshop built on prior work of the Forum on Microbial Threats and aimed to help transform current knowledge into immediate action. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **The role of public health organizations in addressing public health problems in Europe: The case of obesity, alcohol and antimicrobial resistance**

“Growing levels of obesity (including among children), continued harmful consumption of alcohol, and the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are some of the greatest contemporary challenges to the health of European populations. While their magnitude varies from country to country, all are looking for policy options to contain these threats to population health.” *Source: WHO*

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## **Workforce**

### **Te Pou - Support worker forum summaries**

“Summaries from the three 2018 regional mental health and addiction support worker forums, plus a national summary. The forums discussed the key questions in Fast Track: challenges and opportunities for the community support workforce, and sought to identify strategies for further growth and development of the support workforce.” *Source: Te Pou*

### **A Design Thinking, Systems Approach to Well-Being Within Education and Practice**

“The mental health and well-being of health professionals is a topic that is broad, exceptionally relevant, and urgent to address. It is both a local and a global issue, and affects professionals in all stages of their careers. To explore this topic, the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education held a 1.5 day workshop. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **Improving Health Professional Education and Practice Through Technology**

“Participants explored effective use of technologies as tools for bridging identified gaps within and between health professions education and practice in order to optimize learning,

performance and access in high-, middle-, and low-income areas while ensuring the well-being of the formal and informal health workforce. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” Source: *National Academies Press*

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## Drug & Alcohol Use

### Taking stock: a decade of drug policy

“This publication evaluates the impacts of drug policies implemented across the world over the past decade, using data from the United Nations (UN), complemented with peer-reviewed academic research and grey literature reports from civil society.” Source: *International Drug Policy Consortium*

### New Zealanders' alcohol consumption patterns across the lifespan

“This report by Massey University and the University of Auckland looked at the initiation of alcohol use, the patterns of alcohol use across the lifespan, and transitions from hazardous to non-hazardous drinking.” Source: *Health Promotion Agency*

### Ready to contemplate? Midlife adults and their relationship with alcohol

“This report by Research New Zealand details the findings of qualitative research undertaken to understand how to ‘connect’ with midlife adult contemplators, in order to motivate them to take action to moderate their drinking.” Source: *Health Promotion Agency*

### Māori attitudes and behaviours towards alcohol

“SHORE & Whāriki Research Centre Massey University analysed Attitudes and Behaviour towards Alcohol Survey (ABAS) data, using a strengths-based and Kaupapa Māori analytic approach to assess Māori attitudes and behaviours.” Source: *Health Promotion Agency*

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## Mental Health & Wellbeing

### A connected society: A Strategy for tackling loneliness – laying the foundations for change

“This strategy sets out the approach to tackling loneliness in England. It marks a shift in the way we see and act on loneliness, both within government and in society more broadly.” Source: *UK Government*

### An overview of reviews: the effectiveness of interventions to address loneliness at all stages of the life-course

“The review sought to address the question: What is the effectiveness of interventions to alleviate loneliness in people of all ages across the life-course?” Source: *What Works Wellbeing (UK)*

### Promoting mental health in the workplace

“Promoting good mental health at the workplace, not only helps protect employee’s mental and physical health and wellbeing, but also makes good business sense. This document

provides guidance for employers, employees and other stakeholders on the management of mental health issues in the workplace.” Source: *European Commission*

#### **Mental health in the workplace: seminar report**

“This paper is a summary of the proceedings of a seminar between the Mental Health Foundation, the Academy of Government and Healthcare Improvement Scotland on workplace mental health, held at the Scottish Parliament. The aim of the seminar was to bring together representatives from government, private, public and third sector organisations to discuss the challenges and opportunities in creating mentally healthy workplaces.” Source: *Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

#### **Mental health services in Australia: in brief 2018**

“Mental health service—In brief 2018 is the companion publication to the online report Mental health services in Australia (MHSA), which provides detailed data on the national response of the health and welfare system to the mental health care needs of Australians. MHSA is updated progressively throughout each year as data becomes available to ensure that the most up to date information is available at a point in time.” Source: *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*

#### **What Works? Collaborative Police And Health Interventions For Mental Health Distress**

“This evidence review looks at collaborative interventions which help support people in mental health distress. It aims to outline ‘what works’ when individuals present in mental health distress to the police. The key objective is to examine interventions that have been utilised internationally and, where evaluations are available, identify what aspects of the approach work well/not so well.” Source: *Scottish Government*

#### **Mental health in the construction industry scoping report**

“The study explores the high rate of suicide in the New Zealand construction and building industry workforce and the underlying mental health issues that drive it. Interviewees were unanimous in their support for more research to investigate the scale of the problem, and recommendations are made based on their insights.” Source: *BRANZ*

#### **Baby boomers, mental health and ageing well**

“The Age Well project was set up by the Mental Health Foundation to explore how the baby boomers are likely to weather the transition into old age, with a particular focus on their mental health and wellbeing.” Source: *Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

#### **"There was no other way out": Exploring the relationship between women's experiences of intimate partner violence and their self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and suicide events**

“Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been implicated in a sizeable number of deaths by suicide worldwide, representing a hidden form of lethality of this type of violence. However, there are very few New Zealand-specific studies that focus on the intersections between IPV and suicide, and none that explore the subjective experiences of women who have suffered both IPV and suicidal thoughts or attempts. This research consequently focuses on women’s total experiences of abuse, violence, and suicidality, and, in particular, the ways that women

who have been victims believe these experiences relate to one another." Source: *National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges*

#### **Trauma-Informed Care In Action Profiles**

"This series of profiles explores practical approaches for addressing trauma across diverse patient settings. The profiled sites are participants in Advancing Trauma-Informed Care, a national initiative led by CHCS through support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Lessons from these innovators can help others adopt trauma-informed practices to their organizations." Source: *Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.*

#### **Looking where the light is: creating and restoring safety and healing**

"This paper sets out a culturally based practice framework for understanding and responding to child sexual abuse. The framework is designed to create and restore safety and healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. It takes a holistic view of sexual abuse in terms of its causes and impacts on children, families, perpetrators and communities and proposes an integrated response to the complex challenges of those causes and impacts." Source: *Healing Foundation*

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### **Child & Youth Health**

#### **Child well-being and the Sustainable Development Goals: How far are OECD countries from reaching the targets for children and young people?**

"This paper summarises available evidence on the distance that OECD countries need to travel in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets for children and young people. More than 50 indicators are included in this analysis, covering 43 of the 169 targets, and 11 of the 17 Goals." Source: *OECD*

#### **Cyberbullying in New Zealand: Estimating societal costs**

"The online world exposes some people to harm from cyberbullying. The cost to individuals, communities and interventions are substantial. The authors estimate the societal cost of cyberbullying is \$444m a year." Source: *Sense Partners*

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### **Health of Older People**

#### **Assessing the Preparedness of the Health Care System Infrastructure in Six European Countries for an Alzheimer's Treatment**

"This research analyzes the preparedness of the health care systems in six European countries — France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom — to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment of patients if a disease-modifying therapy for Alzheimer's becomes available." Source: *RAND*

#### **Interventions to support carers of people with dementia**

"This review considers what works to support carers of older people with dementia to prevent or delay entry into residential aged care. It identified 44 interventions (most from

overseas) that supported carers of people with dementia, of which 26 were from studies assessed as high quality and so were the focus of the analysis.” Source: *Productivity Commission (Australia)*

### [Age-friendly and inclusive volunteering: review of community contributions in later life](#)

“The review of Community Contributions in Later Life was led by the Centre for Ageing Better in partnership with the Office for Civil Society, part of the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). The review ran from October 2017 to June 2018. Its remit was to consider how to enable more people to contribute their skills, time and knowledge to their communities in later life (defined as aged 50 and over) with a focus on how to increase participation among underrepresented groups, especially poorer people and those in poor health or living with long-term health conditions.” Source: *Centre for Ageing Better*

### [Health Literacy and Older Adults: Reshaping the Landscape: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“To gain a better understanding of the health communication challenges among older adults and their professional and family caregivers and how those challenges affect the care older adults receive, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Roundtable on Health Literacy convened a 1-day public workshop featuring presentations and discussions that examined the effect of low health literacy on the health of older adults. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” Source: *National Academies Press*

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## **Health Systems, Costs, & Reform**

### [Will population ageing spell the end of the welfare state?: a review of evidence and policy options](#)

“This brief reviews the main evidence on the health and long-term care costs associated with ageing populations to better understand the expected cost pressures due to changing demographics. At the same time, it explores how older populations can and do contribute meaningfully both in economic and societal terms, particularly if they are able to remain healthy and active into later life. It concludes by reviewing selected policy areas that have been shown to either support the health and activity of older people or which otherwise reinforce sustainable care systems more broadly in the context of population ageing.”

Source: WHO

### [Approaches to better value: improving quality and cost](#)

“While there are differences in how organisations are approaching value improvement, there are also several common conditions for success. These include fidelity to a clearly defined strategy that brings the various strands of value improvement work together; recognition that value improvement is a long-term commitment that will require considerable staff time and resources; and a new leadership approach that requires continuous engagement with frontline clinicians and managers.” Source: *King’s Fund*

### [Doomed to repeat? Lessons from the history of NHS reform](#)

“NHS leaders are now hard at work on a long-term plan for the health service, due to be published in the coming months. Those who have been involved with health care in England for some time could be forgiven for feeling a sense of déjà vu, as NHS history is littered with similar plans. So what lessons can be learned from these previous plans, and how can we ultimately ensure that this time is a success?” Source: *Nuffield Trust*

#### **The future of healthcare: our vision for digital, data and technology in health and care**

“By harnessing the power of technology and creating an environment to enable innovation, we can manage the growing demand for services and create the secure and sustainable future for the NHS and social care system that we all want to see.” Source: *Department of Health & Social Care (UK)*

#### **Ensuring access to medicines: How to stimulate innovation to meet patients' needs?**

This report “aims to inform discussions about stimulating more meaningful productivity in terms of R&D. More specifically, it explores how R&D efforts can be steered to areas of unmet clinical needs and how efficiency in the R&D process can be increased. It also explicitly considers concrete options for strengthening cooperation between EU Member States in this context.” Source: *European Observatory*

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## **Long-Term Conditions**

#### **"Just one thing after another": living with multiple conditions**

“It’s increasingly common that people affected by long-term health conditions will be living with several rather than just one, and yet their experiences often go unheard. Systems and services, across the public and voluntary sector, are largely geared around single diseases. This ethnographic research gives a voice to people living with multiple long-term conditions, uncovers the range of complex factors that impact their daily lives and helps us focus efforts on what matters.” Source: *Richmond Group of Charities*

#### **How should health policy respond to the growing challenge of multimorbidity?**

“There is growing awareness internationally of the increasing number of people living with multiple long-term health condition, known as multimorbidity. Health services, including the NHS, need to adapt to address this challenge.” Source: *University of Bristol*

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## **Disability & Social Care**

#### **Position paper: NDIS reasonable and necessary supports – the case for respite**

“Carers often put in years of constant care, especially if they are primary carers (those who provide the most substantial amount of care). Respite provides an opportunity for carers and those they care for to take a break from each other.” Source: *Carers Australia*

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## **Cancer & Palliative Care**

### **Talking about dying: How to begin honest conversations about what lies ahead**

“The Talking about dying report seeks to offer advice and support for any doctor on holding conversations with patients much earlier after the diagnosis of a progressive or terminal condition, including frailty.” *Source: Royal College of Physicians (UK)*

### **Making lung cancer a fair fight: a blueprint for reform**

“This report has been prepared to raise awareness about the burden of lung cancer in Australia and the particular challenges faced by people diagnosed with the condition. The report outlines feasible and pragmatic recommendations that will lead to better outcomes for people living with lung cancer.” *Source: Lung Foundation Australia*

### **Improving Cancer Diagnosis and Care: Patient Access to Oncologic Imaging and Pathology Expertise and Technologies: Proceedings of a Workshop**

“To examine opportunities to improve cancer diagnosis and care, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a two-workshop series. The first workshop, held on February 12–13, 2018, in Washington, DC, focused on potential strategies to ensure that patients have access to appropriate expertise and technologies in oncologic pathology and imaging to inform their cancer diagnosis and treatment planning, as well as assessment of treatment response and surveillance. This publication chronicles the presentations and discussions at the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **A data-driven approach to personalised cancer care**

“Making better use of data will not only improve cancer outcomes but will also enable the Service to manage the disease far more effectively, now, and in the future.” *Source: Reform (UK)*

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## **Quality & Safety**

### **Implementing Quality Measures for Accountability in Community-Based Care for People with Serious Illness**

“In an effort to better understand and facilitate discussions about the challenges and opportunities related to identifying and implementing quality measures for accountability purposes in community-based serious illness care, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a public workshop on April 17, 2018, in Washington, DC. Workshop participants explored the current state of quality measurement for people with serious illness, their families, and caregivers, with the aim of identifying next steps toward effectively implementing measures to drive improvement in the quality of community-based care for those facing serious illness. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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