



Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

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

Issue 50, 2017, October

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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Health of Older People

[Dementia and the impact of stigma](#)

"People living with dementia and carers experience embarrassing situations, feel strongly disconnected, feel less competent and sometimes feel useless, this survey has found. The survey has sparked calls for greater awareness and understanding of dementia by the general public so people living with the condition and their carers can be supported to feel less disconnected." *Source: Alzheimer's Australia*

[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*

[Making the economic case for investing in actions to prevent and/or tackle loneliness: a systematic review](#)

“The Campaign to End Loneliness has contracted researchers from the London School of Economics to conduct a research review about the cost-effectiveness of loneliness interventions.” *Source: London School of Economics*

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Social Care

[“Whatever it takes”: Access for women with disabilities to domestic and family violence services: final report](#)

“This research report that aims to help tertiary response services to respond effectively to the needs of women with disabilities. It draws on the experiences of women with disabilities who have experienced violence and abuse and have used tertiary response services.” *Source: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Limited*

[Enhancing Equitable Access to Assistive Technologies in Canada](#)

“Enhancing equitable access to assistive technologies in Canada provides an opportunity to address policy priorities focused on helping older adults age in place. Assistive technologies can be used for a variety of health related goals, including for the promotion of self-management and independence, and performing daily tasks by compensating for physical, sensory and cognitive impairments. While priorities and policies in provincial and territorial health systems in Canada focus on expanding the home and community care sector and supporting older adults at home, programs that provide access to assistive technologies vary greatly and the approach to delivery is highly fragmented.” *Source: McMaster Health Forum*

[Moving between hospital and home, including care homes](#)

“Registered managers and their teams play an important role in supporting people when they are transferring in and out of hospital. This quick guide provides a brief overview of how managers can work with hospitals to ensure a good experience of transition for the people in their care.” *Source: Social Care Institute for Excellence *sign up for free account to download*

[Home from hospital: How housing services are relieving pressure on the NHS](#)

“This report sets out the impact of delayed transfers of care, the implications for the NHS and the solutions that are offered by housing providers, including the cost benefits these solutions provide to the NHS.” *Source: National Housing Federation (UK)*

[Making sense of Social Prescribing](#)

“The terms ‘social prescribing’, ‘community referral’ and ‘nontraditional providers’ have all been used to describe a way of expanding the range of nonmedical options that could be available to healthcare professionals when a person has needs that are related to socioeconomic and psychosocial issues. This guide reflects the latest information about social prescribing. You can access this resource in several ways. Each section is designed to be a standalone summary of a key aspect of social prescribing.” *Source: University of Westminster*

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Health Equity

[Psychosocial pathways and health outcomes: Informing action on health inequalities](#)

“This report highlights the current evidence that exists about the relationships between social determinants, psychosocial factors and health outcomes. It also provides a conceptual framework that focuses on the psychosocial pathways between factors associated with social, economic and environmental conditions, psychological and psychobiological processes, health behaviours and mental and physical health outcomes.” *Source: Public Health England*

[Reducing health inequalities: system, scale and sustainability](#)

“This resource has been produced to support local action to tackle health inequalities, by helping local partners to identify what specific interventions could measurably improve outcomes.” *Source: Public Health England*

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Public Health

[Antibacterial agents in clinical development: An analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including tuberculosis](#)

“The report – “Antibacterial agents in clinical development – an analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including Mycobacterium tuberculosis” – shows a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance. Most of the drugs currently in the clinical pipeline are modifications of existing classes of antibiotics and are only short-term solutions. The report found very few potential treatment options for those antibiotic-resistant infections identified by WHO as posing the greatest threat to health, including drug-resistant tuberculosis which kills around 250 000 people each year.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Drug-Resistant Infections: A Threat to Our Economic Future](#)

“This report provides insights into the extent and broad patterns of the economic impacts of AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) and their implications for poverty, should AMR continue to increase because of inadequate collective actions. Echoing other recent studies, this report underscores that the likely direct and indirect economic damage would be substantial.”

Source: World Bank

[Evaluation of the family violence Integrated Safety Response pilot](#)

“The family violence Integrated Safety Response (ISR) pilot was officially launched in Christchurch on 4 July 2016. A second pilot site in Waikato came into operation on 25 October 2016. The ISR pilot is one element of a larger cross-agency work programme overseen by the Ministerial Group on Family Violence and Sexual Violence.” *Source: Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit*

[Seeking help for domestic violence: exploring rural women’s coping experiences - final report](#)

“This study engaged with five different types of social and geographical locations at sites in South Australia and Western Australia to explore how isolation affects different women’s abilities to seek assistance and cope with experiences of domestic violence.” *Source: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety*

[Tobacco-Free Generations](#)

“This report highlights ongoing and emerging tobacco-related issues that affect children in the Region and examines the regulatory frameworks, commitments and other tools that Member States should use to protect children from tobacco. This also includes more novel approaches that could – and should – be used to pave the way towards a tobacco-free European Region.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Future of the Sea: Health and Wellbeing of Coastal Communities](#)

“Determining how each coastal community can become resilient in the face of sociodemographic change and the increasing number of extreme events and environmental threats is a key challenge. Evidence shows benefits to policies that offer a range of co-benefits to both the environment and health. The increasing use of marine planning and ‘natural capital’ methodologies may provide a basis for action. Any policy response is complicated by the fact that coastal communities’ diversity means that there is unlikely to be any ‘one size fits all’ policy response.” *Source: Government Office for Science (UK)*

[Breaking the fever: Sustainability and climate change in the NHS](#)

This report “gives an overview of the impact of climate change on healthcare in the UK, and how physicians and the NHS can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.” *Source: Royal College of Physicians*

[Redesigning the Process for Establishing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)

“As the primary federal source of consistent, evidence-based information on dietary practices for optimal nutrition, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) have the promise to empower Americans to make informed decisions about what and how much they eat to improve health and reduce the risk of chronic disease. The adoption and widespread translation of the DGA requires that they be universally viewed as valid, evidence-based, and free of bias and conflicts of interest to the extent possible. This second and final report recommends changes to the DGA process to reduce and manage sources of bias and conflicts of interest, improve timely opportunities for engagement by all interested parties, enhance transparency, and strengthen the science base of the process.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Mental Health

[Just getting on: Young people's views on gender, emotional well-being and mental health](#)

“This document is for decision-makers, service providers and practitioners whose work impacts on children and young people's emotional and mental health and well-being. It presents young people's views on how they cope with difficulties and seek help, with a focus on the role of gender”. *Source: National Children's Bureau (UK)*

[Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Major Depression and Schizophrenia](#)

“This review examines the current evidence for the clinical efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) for patients with major depression and/or schizophrenia. It also looks at evidence for its use within particular patient sub groups. It will be a useful resource when considering local implementation of TMS in NSW as a new health technology. The quality of the evidence found was high however there was considerable variability, particularly for schizophrenia, in treatment protocols, scope, rigour and quality. To account for this the researchers undertook a high-level review of the entire evidence base with more detailed extraction of studies identified as being the most recent and most representative.” *Source: Sax Institute*

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Health Promotion & Prevention

[Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Colorectal Cancer](#)

“Published in September 2017, the report is the most rigorous, systematic, global analysis of the scientific research currently available on diet, weight, physical activity and colorectal cancer, and which of these factors increase or decrease the risk of developing the disease. For the report, the global scientific research on diet, nutrition, physical activity and colorectal cancer was gathered and analysed by a research team at Imperial College London, and then independently assessed by a panel of leading international scientists.” *Source: World Cancer Research Fund International*

[Type 2 diabetes: prevention in people at high risk](#)

“This guideline covers how to identify adults at high risk of type 2 diabetes. It aims to remind practitioners that age is no barrier to being at high risk of, or developing, the condition. It also aims to help them provide those at high risk with an effective and appropriate intensive lifestyle-change programme to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.” *Source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE UK)*

[What is Community Wellbeing? Conceptual review](#)

“The ‘Conceptual Review of Community Wellbeing’ from the UK's What Works Wellbeing Centre Community Wellbeing Evidence Programme (CWEP) pulls together thinking and practice on how to think about and assess community wellbeing. The primary purpose is to stimulate greater attention and debate to what we are terming ‘being well together’.” *Source: What Works Wellbeing*

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Workforce

[Pharmacy: A Way Forward for Public Health](#)

“Pharmacy - A Way Forward for Public Health sets out a broad range of opportunities for pharmacy teams working in communities and through their daily interactions with patients and the public to play a pivotal role in protecting and improving the health of the nation.”

Source: Public Health England

[The Deep End Advice Worker Project: embedding advice in general practice](#)

“The Deep End Advice Worker project developed and tested approaches to delivering advice services (e.g. financial and debt advice, housing advice and social security support) in two general practices in north east Glasgow.” *Source: Glasgow Centre for Population Health*

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Child, Youth, & Family Health

[Interim Evaluation Report: Healthy Families NZ](#)

“This Healthy Families NZ Interim Evaluation report shows that the initiative has been established with integrity to its intention and purpose and is a promising approach to prevention of chronic disease. The report also identifies enabling and supporting Māori leadership as an integral part of the Healthy Families NZ approach and one of eight emerging themes and lessons that are addressed in the report.” *Source: Massey University*

[Incredible Years Toddler Programme Evaluation](#)

“In 2012 Early Start implemented the Incredible Years Toddler (IYT) parenting programme as an adjunct to the Early Start service to assist families experiencing severe parenting difficulties. This report uses data gathered in the context of six IYT courses conducted over the period 2012-2015 to provide an outcome evaluation of the implementation of IYT focussing on three issues: course participation; evidence of benefit; and client satisfaction.”

Source: Early Start Project

[Child neglect: key concepts and risk factors](#)

“This report provides an overview of the key concepts in defining neglect and a systematic review of reviews investigating the common risk factors for neglect.” *Source: Australian Centre for Child Protection*

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Communication

[Communicating Clearly About Medicines: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“Given the importance of health literacy to the proper use of medications, and the apparent lack of progress in improving medication adherence, the Roundtable on Health Literacy formed an ad hoc committee to plan and conduct a 1-day public workshop that featured invited presentations and discussion of the role and challenges regarding clarity of communication on medication. Participants focused on using health literacy principles to address clarity of materials, decision aids, and other supportive tools and technologies

regarding risks, benefits, alternatives, and health plan coverage. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Finding a Better Frame: How to Create More Effective Messages on Homelessness in the United Kingdom](#)

“If members of the public recognise homelessness as an important issue and have a more accurate understanding of how the issue works, they will be more likely to support necessary policies and engage in actions that can address, prevent and perhaps someday end homelessness. But how can communicators talk about homelessness in a way that deepens public understanding, attracts new allies and builds demand for change? How can the third sector use communications to guide media reporting so that it encourages people to think about and support systems-level change and solutions? And, perhaps most critically, how can communicators avoid unintentionally reinforcing unproductive attitudes and negative stereotypes that stymie social change and set the cause back?” *Source: FrameWorks Institute*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reform

[Leading Large Scale Change: A Practical Guide](#)

“Leading Large Scale Change: A practical guide has been produced by the NHS England Sustainable Improvement Team and the Horizons Team, NHS England to help all those involved in seeking to achieve transformational change in complex health and care environments.” *Source: NHS England*

[New Care Models: Harnessing Technology](#)

“Rising demand for services, constrained funding and a multitude of workforce challenges require us to think differently about the way we deliver health and care services to meet people’s needs and expectations. This publication explores how digital tools are a key part of the answer to this set of challenges, and demonstrates how technology has the potential to revolutionise the way health and care is delivered.” *Source: NHS Confederation*

[Partnerships for improvement: ingredients for success](#)

“How good are NHS organisations and the wider system at achieving the potential benefits of partnering? The opportunity to move away from current frustrations may seem attractive but there’s no guarantee that a new model will prove any better. The landscape of health and other public services is littered with good ideas and worthy intentions that made little or no difference. The evidence for previous NHS partnering can be summed up as ‘unlikely to achieve expected savings in the short term with little measurable impact on quality’. [This report] explores the realities of partnering in five current examples in the NHS. The case studies reflect the varying types of partnerships with a range of starting points, scale and maturity.” *Source: Health Foundation*

[Rapid reviews to strengthen health policy and systems: a practical guide](#)

“Policy-makers require valid evidence to support time-sensitive decisions regarding the coverage, quality, efficiency, and equity of health systems. Systematic reviews and other

types of evidence syntheses are increasingly employed to inform policy-making and produce guidance for health systems. However, the time and cost to produce a systematic review is often a barrier to its use in decision-making. Rapid reviews are a timely and affordable approach that can provide actionable and relevant evidence to strengthen health policy and systems.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Measurement and Monitoring of Safety Framework: e-guide](#)

“The Health Foundation commissioned the research to try and answer the question: how safe is patient care? The answer to the question had remained elusive, despite our health and care systems being awash with data. There are many reasons which might help to explain this, but it matters more to patients and staff to have a practical way forward to improve how patient safety is measured and monitored. The research report does just that, proposing a new approach that includes five fundamental questions that teams and organizations should ask.” *Source: How Safe is Our Care (UK)*

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