



# 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@health.govt.nz](mailto:library@health.govt.nz) to subscribe.

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## Equity

### [Identifying and Understanding Ways to Address the Impact of Racism on Patient Safety in Health Care Settings](#)

"RAND Corporation and MedStar researchers examined the intersection of patient safety and racism, focusing on patient safety and health equity from clinician leaders' perspectives. An overarching emphasis of the work concerned the impact of racism and other related factors (i.e.,

bias) on patient safety events and potential interventions or changes (such as creating a culture of speaking up about racism in care) that can help prevent such events.” *Source: RAND Corporation*

### [Systemic Racism and Health Equity](#)

“Systemic racism is racism that is pervasively and deeply embedded in systems and structures such as laws, written or unwritten policies, and widespread, deeply rooted, established practices, beliefs, and attitudes that produce, condone, and perpetuate widespread unfair treatment of people of color. Addressing systemic racism is crucial for achieving health equity.” *Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (US)*

### [Indigenous nation building and the political determinants of health and wellbeing: discussion paper](#)

“This discussion paper sets a framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to take control of their health and wellbeing through nation building. The key finding in the paper outlines that Indigenous nation building enables healthy futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples because it comprehensively enacts self-determination and so addresses the broad social, cultural and political determinants of health and wellbeing.” *Source: Lowitja Institute (Australia)*

### [Health Equity: Everyone Counts: The Need for Disaggregated Data on Marginalized or Excluded Racial/Ethnic Groups](#)

“The ways in which data are collected, analyzed, and reported may have inequitable consequences. The effects of policies that make data unavailable on excluded or marginalized groups can put those populations at further disadvantage that may reflect systemic racism.” *Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (US)*

### [Racial, Ethnic, and Language Concordance Between Patients and Their Usual Healthcare Providers](#)

“Patients of color are less likely than White patients to report being the same race as their healthcare providers. The disparity could have negative implications for patient-provider relationships and patient health outcomes.” *Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (US)*

### [Fuel poverty, cold homes and health inequalities in the UK](#)

“This report reviews the evidence on both the direct and indirect impacts of fuel poverty and cold homes on health. It looks at health inequalities and who this will affect the most, and the relation between health inequalities and climate change. The report makes the case for prioritising reducing fuel poverty through policy suggestions at both the national and local level.” *Source: Institute of Health Equity*

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## **Public Health**

### [Antimicrobial Resistance and the Social Sciences: A Narrative Review](#)

“The purpose of this narrative review is to explore how social sciences research may contribute to our understanding of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antibiotic prescribing in human health and inform mitigation strategies. This review describes the extant social sciences literature, identifies emerging themes and proposes areas for further investigation. The review identifies over 80

examples of social sciences research related to AMR.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (Canada)*

#### [WHO fungal priority pathogens list to guide research, development and public health action](#)

“The WHO fungal priority pathogens list (WHO FPPL) is the first global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens, considering their unmet research and development (R&D) needs and perceived public health importance. The WHO FPPL aims to focus and drive further research and policy interventions to strengthen the global response to fungal infections and antifungal resistance.” *Source: World Health Organization*

#### [Strengthening Australia’s pandemic preparedness: Science and technology-enabled solutions](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented for many governments around the world, with highly disruptive and costly impacts. With more pandemics a likely scenario, it has highlighted the need for improved national planning to help better prepare for future outbreaks. Targeted investments and planning in science and technology solutions can play a key role in helping Australia become more prepared for future pandemics. These range from improved research of key viral families, developing early warning systems through enhanced genomics expertise, to expanding onshore vaccine manufacturing capabilities. This report examines the six top science and technology areas with 20 recommendations to inform government and industry planning. *Source: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)*

#### [Being Gen Vape](#)

The project’s aim was to provide understanding of teen vaping behaviour, informed through lived experience. The researchers explored teenagers’ knowledge, perceptions, beliefs and attitudes, and the interpersonal and contextual influences on vaping amongst this young cohort whom we refer to as Gen Vape. *Source: The Behaviour Change Collaborative (Australia)*

#### [Global status report on physical activity 2022](#)

This Global status report on physical activity is WHO’s first dedicated global assessment of global progress on country implementation of policy recommendations of the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (GAPPA) 2018-2030. It also presents an estimate of the cost to health systems of not taking action to improve physical activity levels and reinforces the urgency to position physical activity as a shared, whole-of-government priority, and to strengthen coordination and partnerships to promote physical activity. *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

#### [Perinatal mental distress: An under-recognised concern](#)

“Perinatal mental distress is an under-recognised condition that can have serious consequences for a woman and her baby, and potentially also lead to intergenerational cycles of compromised wellbeing. This evidence brief gives an overview of the state of perinatal mental distress in Aotearoa, the underlying social and biological risk factors, and some prevention and management approaches. Early universal screening with a culturally appropriate tool is important, as is raised awareness of

perinatal distress to reduce stigma and encourage women/whānau to seek help.” *Source: Koi Tū: Centre for Informed Futures (New Zealand)*

#### **Equitable Access to Wellbeing framework**

“The Equitable Access to Wellbeing framework is a knowledge and skills framework for mental health, addiction, and disability workforces working in primary, secondary, and tertiary contexts. It aims to strengthen the workforce to provide better support and improve outcomes for disabled people experiencing mental distress and their whānau.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

#### **Understanding population mental health and substance use: An overview of current data**

“This brief report aims to increase awareness of the range of data and information available on mental health and substance use at the adult population level.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

#### **The Roles of Public Health in Population Mental Health and Wellness Promotion**

This report is a guidance document on the roles of public health in population mental health and wellness promotion (PMHWP) across Canada. *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (Canada)*

#### **Guidelines on mental health at work**

“The WHO guidelines on mental health at work provide evidence-based recommendations to promote mental health, prevent mental health conditions, and enable people living with mental health conditions to participate and thrive in work. The recommendations cover organizational interventions, manager training and worker training, individual interventions, return to work, and gaining employment. The guidelines on mental health at work aim to improve the implementation of evidence-based interventions for mental health at work.” *Source: World Health Organization*

#### **Money and Mental Health: Social Research Report**

There is substantial evidence that financial wellbeing and mental health are connected. This was confirmed through analysis of the existing literature and HILDA data and supported by research participants (both people with lived experience and practitioners working to support impacted Australians). *Source: Heartward Strategic (Australia)*

#### **Individual Placement and Support**

Many people with a mental health difficulty want to work, but aren’t offered the right support. Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidence-based model of supported employment which helps people with mental health difficulties into work and provides continued in-work support. It has consistently outperformed all other forms of support for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. This briefing sets out why and how IPS works, and how new integrated care systems (ICSs) can help more people living with mental health difficulties into employment, by investing in IPS. *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

#### **Exploring Psychedelics and Entactogens as Treatments for Psychiatric Disorders**

“Psychiatric illnesses - such as major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder, substance use disorder, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) - are widely prevalent and represent a substantial health burden worldwide. Yet, conventional medications for mental illnesses often fail to provide relief to

patients' disruptive and disabling symptoms. Existing and emerging evidence that psychedelics (e.g., LSD and psilocybin) and entactogens (e.g., MDMA) may be useful as tools to alleviate mental illness has sparked a renaissance of interest by investigators, clinicians, drug developers, and patient advocates in recent years. While promising data on therapeutic efficacy has energized research and development, resolving the mechanisms of action will be important for optimizing the efficacy and safety of these medicines. Further, evaluating the effect of psychedelics and entactogens on mood and behavior comes with unique challenges still in need of resolution. These include unresolved questions relating to blinding, placebo and nocebo effects, and the impact of psychosocial contexts.”  
*Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Sustainability**

### [Decarbonising clinical care in Australia](#)

The brief highlights the current gaps in understanding of the healthcare sector’s contribution to Australia’s carbon footprint. It focuses on the environmental impact of the delivery of care as the major source of emissions not reflected in emissions reductions policies. It identifies the need to reduce low value care, including current areas of interest for reform. It describes how better data collection and reporting on the footprint of healthcare can be harnessed to inform and incentivise sector-wide reform for a more environmentally sustainable and high-quality healthcare system.  
*Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

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## **Workforce**

### [Lessons from abroad on professionalising care workers](#)

“Perceptions of care work as low skilled continue to persist, despite the pandemic highlighting just how vital care workers are. In recent years there has been increased debate around the ‘professionalisation’ of this staff group, which generally refers to the creation of a statutory register of staff and their professional regulation. This new Nuffield Trust report reviews what the evidence shows about the professionalisation of care workers in other countries.” *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

### [Addressing Burnout in the Behavioral Health Workforce through Organizational Strategies](#)

“Burnout is a complex issue resulting from chronic workplace stress that encompasses exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal accomplishment. This guide will highlight organization-level interventions to prevent and reduce burnout among behavioral health workers.” *Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US)*

### [Thriving at work: A health-based framework for decent work](#)

“This framework is grounded in an evidence review of academic and grey literature on what constitutes a healthy job. The framework’s definition of healthy work includes promoting and protecting physical, mental, economic, and social health. It aims to set a north star for what it means to be healthy and thrive at work.” *Source: Wellesley Institute (Canada)*

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## Quality & Safety

### [Health care accreditation and quality of care: exploring the role of accreditation and external evaluation of health care facilities and organizations](#)

This document gives a wide view of accreditation as a health care quality intervention by using a broad evidence base of accreditation and of other similar external evaluations, quality interventions and health systems research, combined with global interdisciplinary experience and expertise. It considers the linkages between accreditation and other key attributes of the health system and, using a health systems lens, discusses strategic questions that a health system decision-maker should consider. It does not represent normative guidance on whether or how to introduce or review accreditation or external evaluation, nor does it outline the process of setting up an accreditation body or programme. *Source: World Health Organization*

### [Developing learning health systems in the UK: Priorities for action](#)

“Health care has, in many ways, always been a form of ‘learning system’. Driven by a diverse community of stakeholders, including health care professionals, patients and the public, a learning health system (LHS) uses internal and external knowledge to continually learn about and improve patient care. However, while LHSs have huge potential to support service transformation and population health, there is a lack of consensus about what an LHS actually is, and how to get started. This research report helps people understand LHSs and how they can be developed.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

### [Building an organisational culture of continuous improvement](#)

“The evaluation of the NHS partnership with Virginia Mason Institute, which examined how five NHS trusts in England attempted to build a culture of continuous improvement, provides important lessons about how to plan and implement an organisation-wide approach to improvement. This long read outlines some of the key learning from the evaluation and offers recommendations for national policymakers and local systems leaders.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

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## Health of Older People

### [Retail therapy – Dementia and spending](#)

“This report is the result of a year-long programme of work engaging people with dementia, retailers and policy experts across the country to understand the barriers people with dementia face on the high street, and develop innovative solutions to bridge this gap.” *Source: International Longevity Centre (UK)*

### [A blueprint for dementia research](#)

Research and innovation are integral parts of the global response to dementia. Yet, the Global status report on the public health response to dementia shows that despite some encouraging efforts most countries are far from reaching the adopted targets of the Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017–2025. This blueprint for dementia research summarizes

the current state of dementia research across six broad themes, identifies existing knowledge gaps, and outlines 15 strategic goals with actions and timebound milestones to address these gaps. The blueprint also outlines drivers of research that together create an enabling research environment that is essential for accelerating dementia research globally. *Source: World Health Organization*

#### [ADOM report - Problematic substance use in older people](#)

“This report focuses on older people seeking support from community alcohol and other drug services. The data presented is based on tāngata whai ora with valid ADOM treatment starts between April 2019 to March 2022. We examine ADOM treatment starts to understand which substances older people use and the impact on their wellbeing when they first access services.” *Source Te Pou (New Zealand)*

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## **Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms**

#### [Intersectoral models to build healthy public policy: A review of the evidence](#)

“This review is intended to inform the ongoing work of Wellbeing SA on intersectoral approaches, including different models of Health in All Policies, designed to build healthy public policy in South Australia.” *Source: University of Adelaide (Australia)*

#### [Why do diagnostics matter? Maximising the potential of diagnostics services](#)

“This briefing explores the role that diagnostics play in underpinning much of the activity that takes place in the health and care system, the policy focus to date and where attention is needed to ensure diagnostic capacity and capability are fit for the future.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

#### [Interoperability is more than technology: The role of culture and leadership in joined-up care](#)

“Integrated care systems (ICSs) and provider collaboratives are ushering in a move towards more collaborative working across organisations in health, social care and the voluntary and community sector – and digital health technologies have an important role to play. Digital technologies can help information and communication to flow across organisations, people and places, bringing benefits for both patients and staff, eg, fewer tests, improved patient safety, reduced costs and saving both patients and staff time. However, using digital health technologies to overcome silos, often referred to as interoperability, has been a longstanding challenge. The authors undertook research to understand how to progress interoperability in health and care.” *Source: King’s Fund (UK)*

#### [Different Is Necessary: Approaches to Advance Value-Based Procurement in Canada](#)

“Value-based procurement (VBP) is an advanced approach to purchasing that addresses the challenging problem of how to improve patient care and outcomes while containing healthcare costs.” *Source: Conference Board of Canada*

#### [Optimal Planning of Health Services through Genetic Algorithm and Discrete Event Simulation: A Proposed Model and Its Application to Stroke Rehabilitation Care](#)

“Increasing demand for provision of care to stroke survivors creates challenges for health care planners. A key concern is the optimal alignment of health care resources between provision of acute care, rehabilitation, and among different segments of rehabilitation, including inpatient

rehabilitation, early supported discharge (ESD), and outpatient rehabilitation (OPR).” Source: *Institute of Health Economics (Canada)*

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