



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

Issue 116, 2023, 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 identify their key areas of interest. Email library@health.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Climate Change

[Biodiversity, climate change and health: A policy report by the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change](#)

“[This] policy report, describes the impacts of biodiversity loss on land and oceans for human health and puts forward recommendations to reduce biodiversity loss, restore nature, and achieve climate goals for the benefit of health.” *Source: UK Health Alliance on Climate Change*

[Climate change and public health indicators: scoping review](#)

“This report reviews the current sets of environmental and public health indicators that can be used to monitor progress in climate change adaptation and mitigation in the United Kingdom (UK), with a focus on England and priorities for the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).” *Source: UK Health Security Agency*

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Public Health

[People-centred approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance in human health](#)

“This document outlines the concept and content of the WHO people-centred approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the human health sector. The proposed approach recognizes and aims to address the challenges and health system barriers people face when accessing health services to prevent, diagnose and treat (drug-resistant) infections. It puts people and their needs at the centre of the AMR response and guides policy-makers in taking programmatic and comprehensive actions to mitigate AMR in line with a proposed package of core interventions.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[The use of next-generation sequencing for the surveillance of drug-resistant tuberculosis: an implementation manual](#)

“This document provides practical guidance on planning and implementing next-generation sequencing (NGS) technology for characterization of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MTBC) bacteria. The aim is to detect mutations associated with drug resistance in the context of a surveillance system for tuberculosis (TB).” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – a framework for local government action](#)

“This briefing aims to support local authorities in England to maximise their local scope for action to improve health and tackle inequalities by addressing tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Guide to conducting programme reviews for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections](#)

“This publication provides guidance to countries on how to perform programme reviews for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in this dynamic health sector context. The guidance encourages integrated reviews across health programmes for more efficient use of health system resources. The welfare of populations to be served must be at the centre of health programme reviews, with the overarching resolve to protect and promote health as a human right.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Freshwater: Monitoring and Regulating Water Quality](#)

“This report presents new water quality monitoring methods, such as bioassays and non-targeted analysis, that are well equipped to capture the impacts of EDCs (Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals) in water. These new methods supplement the traditional substance-by-substance chemical analysis of water quality. The report also outlines policy instruments to manage the chemicals’ lifecycle from source to end-of-pipe. It proposes tools and regulations that respond to the negative effects of endocrine disruption, even if the culprit chemical is still unknown. The analysis draws on case studies from OECD countries to provide practical examples and concrete policy actions.” *Source: OECD*

[Technology-facilitated abuse: family, domestic and sexual violence - literature scan](#)

“The purpose of the literature scan is to provide a robust summary of the nature, prevalence and impacts of, and responses to, FDSV-TFA. The document seeks to identify barriers to and enablers for responding to TFA, as well as current forms of support available for victim-survivors within Australia. This aligns with the scope of the proposed support service and will inform its development. It is important to note that some of the literature defines and examines technology-facilitated family and domestic violence (FDV) as distinct from technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV). This report reflects this distinction.” *Source: eSafety Commissioner*

[Influencers and attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse?](#)

“The purpose of this research was to ensure an evidence base for the design of education about relationships for children and young people (CYP), highlighting the positive influence that well structured Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) programmes can have and to ultimately investigate ‘what works well’. The findings are particularly important as they are presented alongside the other influencing factors that CYP are contending with today, some of which may potentially have a harmful impact on how CYP perceive and navigate relationships.” *Source: Women’s Aid (UK)*

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Equity

[Targeting health inequalities - realising the potential of targets in addressing health inequalities](#)

“This report commissioned by the Health Foundation and produced by the University of Newcastle and University of Strathclyde in partnership with Health Equity North examines how targets have been used in the past to address health inequalities and how they could be used in the future. It is part of an area of work by the Health Foundation examining how policymakers can take a whole-government approach to improving health.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[A constant battle: exploring the intergenerational consequences of racism in the UK](#)

“This briefing finds that racism has far-reaching impacts on parents, their children, and the relationships between them. Based on research between the CMH and King’s College London with both parents and teenagers from UK racialised communities, it finds that both past and present experiences of racism can affect mental health across generations of a family.” *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[How to Make Societies Thrive? Coordinating Approaches to Promote Well-being and Mental Health](#)

“Good mental health is a vital part of people’s well-being. This report uses the OECD Well-being Framework to systematically review how people’s economic, social, relational, civic and environmental experiences shape and are, in turn, shaped by their mental health. Based on this evidence, examples of co-benefits, or policy interventions that can jointly improve both mental health and other well-being outcomes, are identified for a range of government departments.”

Source: OECD

[Exploring children and young people's mental health - A series of think pieces](#)

“The rise of mental health needs among children and young people has been well documented over the past decade with pressures seemingly increasing year on year. While much data and narrative reflect the number of children being referred to health services for mental health support, councils are also seeing more and more young people requiring urgent help. These series of think pieces have been developed independently providing an opportunity for the LGA itself to reflect on what it wants to see in terms of mental health reform, and what councils can do to help create a society that reduces the need for young people and families to turn to acute health services for mental health support.” *Source: Local Government Association (UK)*

[Social cohesion in Auckland: results from the Quality of Life survey](#)

“Rangahau te Korou o te Ora/The Quality of Life project is a long-running biennial local government survey in Aotearoa New Zealand that aims to measure perceptions of wellbeing of New Zealand residents and communities in urban areas. Although not specifically designed to measure social cohesion, the survey gathers important information about key indicators (belonging, participation, recognition, and legitimacy) at the individual and neighbourhood levels and, therefore, provides an opportunity to explore differences in perceptions of social inclusion and cohesion. This report presents results from the 2022 Quality of Life survey and focusses on results for Auckland. The 2022 survey collected data in March to June 2022, from a total of 7518 New Zealanders aged 18 and over, of whom 2612 were Auckland residents.” *Source: Auckland Council*

[Mental health of refugees and migrants: risk and protective factors and access to care](#)

“This is the fifth report of the Global Evidence Review on Health and Migration (GEHM) series. The publication focuses on the mental health needs of refugees and migrants by providing an overview of the available evidence on patterns of risk and protective factors and of facilitators and barriers to care at all levels (individual, family, community and national government). It identifies five high-level themes, each of which has implications for research and policy and is relevant across refugee and migrant groups, contexts and stages of the migration process: self-identity and community support; basic needs and security; cultural concepts of mental health as well as stigma; exposure to adversity and potentially traumatic events; navigating mental health and other systems and services.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Online mental health peer support forums and rural resilience](#)

“A research summary showing how research forums support resilience-building for rural people with lived experiences of mental ill-health.” *Source: Swinburne University of Technology*

[Multidimensional disadvantage and wellbeing](#)

“The paper examines the measurement of different domains of disadvantage – income poverty, deprivation, and social exclusion – to develop new disadvantage measures based on the dimensionality of disadvantage. These new dimensional measures are then used to examine the relationship between disadvantage and wellbeing.” *Source: New Zealand Productivity Commission*

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Artificial Intelligence

[Data equity: foundational concepts for Generative AI](#)

“This briefing paper represents a first step in exploring and promoting data equity in the context of GenAI. The proposed definitions, framework and recommendations are intended to be applicable to proactively and positively shape the future development of promising GenAI technologies.” *Source: Global Future Council on Data Equity*

[Foundation models in the public sector](#)

“Foundation models are a form of artificial intelligence (AI) designed to produce a wide variety of outputs that are being adopted across various sectors. They are capable of a range of tasks and applications, such as text, image or audio generation.” *Source: Ada Lovelace Institute (UK)*

[How might artificial intelligence affect the trustworthiness of public service delivery?](#)

“This first Long-term Insights Briefing explores how the APS could integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into public service delivery in the future, and how this might affect the trustworthiness of public service delivery.” *Source: Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Australia)*

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Health of Older People

[Connecting generations: planning and implementing interventions for intergenerational contact](#)

“This guide, developed for the campaign, builds on the evidence in the Global report on ageism that interventions for intergenerational contact is one of three strategies that have been proven to work in addressing ageism, together with policy and law and educational interventions. The guide provides step-by-step guidance for anyone who is using or wishes to use intergenerational practice to combat ageism and to promote understanding and mutual respect among generations.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Promoting physical activity for older people: a toolkit for action](#)

“This ACTIVE toolkit provides evidence-based guidance on the key approaches to promote and enable older people to be physically active, regardless of who they are, where they live, or their intrinsic capacities (for example their visual or cognitive abilities) or whether they live with chronic conditions (for example, diabetes, hypertension, and arthritis).” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Workforce

[Digitalized health workforce education: an elicitation of research gaps and selection of case studies](#)

“This report presents a broad summary of the research gaps around the use of digital technology for the education and training of health workers. Additionally, it applies a conceptual framework developed from a synthesis of existing frameworks for digital health in general, as well as digitalized health workforce education (DHWE).” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Empowered, connected and respected: a vision for general practice at scale and primary care networks](#)

“This paper sets out [a] vision for at-scale general practice...: personalised care for those who need it most delivered through integrated neighbourhood teams, a joined-up approach to prevention and streamlined access.” *Source: NHS Confederation*

[Not just ticking boxes: Four stories illustrating the power of community-led health service design](#)

“In this report, we share learning from four partnerships. Their stories illustrate the progress that can be made when communities are involved in designing services; and when cross-sector groups work together to invite people in, listen, and then make changes.” *Source: IVAR (UK)*

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Research & Technology

[Evidence Institutes: Lessons for Australia from the UK, US and Canada](#)

“There is a significant gap between the research and evidence of what works, and the implementation of this in policy and practice. Simply producing evidence does not automatically lead to uptake or improved outcomes, there is a gap between what we ‘know’, and what we ‘do’. Evidence Institutes are organisations that generate, synthesize, and curate high-quality and robust research, data, and evaluation, with a specific objective to influence and improve the decision-making of policymakers, practitioners, NFPs, and the public. They can act as intermediaries, connecting decision-makers to evidence, and advocate for and facilitate its application.” *Source: Paul Ramsay Foundation (Australia)*

[The Promise and Perils of Next-Generation DNA Sequencing at Birth: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief](#)

“While sequencing offers the opportunity to screen for treatable but not clinically evident conditions early in a child's life, it raises a host of ethical, legal, and social questions for experts, including parents, to consider. The National Academies Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health hosted experts from health care, industry, academia, the federal and state governments, and patient and

consumer advocacy groups for a June 2023 workshop. Participants explored the potential benefits and harms, data security, and health equity considerations for the widespread utilization of newborn genome sequencing in the U.S. This publication summarizes the presentation and discussion of the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Proton beam therapy: a rapid review of evidence](#)

“The report focuses on PBT’s efficacy, safety, and advantages over conventional radiation therapy for pediatric cancers, central nervous tumors, head and neck cancer, and prostate cancer. The report finds that PBT’s effectiveness varies depending on the cancer type and individual patient factors, highlighting the need for personalised treatment planning and more research to determine the neuropsychological benefits.” *Source: Sax Institute (Australia)*

[Personalised Prescribing – Using pharmacogenomics to improve patient outcomes](#)

“This report outlines the case for implementation of pharmacogenomics testing across the United Kingdom (UK) through the NHS. Pharmacogenomics is the study of genetic variation and its impact on an individual’s response to a particular medicine. It provides information that can be used to predict, diagnose and treat illness on a personalised basis. The mainstream use of pharmacogenomics combined with a digitally enabled population health approach has the potential to revolutionise patient care. Using a pharmacogenomics approach increases the likelihood that each patient receives the most effective medicine and optimal dose the first time they are treated. This offers potentially significant cost savings to the health system and better patient outcomes.” *Source: British Pharmacological Society*

[Seven routes to experimentation in policymaking: A guide to applied behavioural science methods](#)

“Behavioural science methods are increasingly used to design and evaluate public policies that better reflect human behaviour and decision making. However, there is a lack of standardization in selecting and labelling these methods, making it difficult for policymakers to choose the appropriate one for a specific policy context. To address this, this working paper proposes guidelines and a visual roadmap, including five key questions to guide the selection of appropriate methods, and seven different experimental or non-experimental methods to choose from. The aim is to provide a simple and practical framework for policymakers to choose the most fit-for-purpose method for their policy context.” *Source: OECD*

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Child & Adolescent Health

[Now We Are Twelve: Life in Early Adolescence](#)

“This latest report from Growing Up in New Zealand shares insights and findings from when the young people in the study are at the start of adolescence - a time of rapid social, emotional, and physical development. The report is presented in a series of nine snapshots which topics are relevant to the health and wellbeing of young people.” *Source: Growing Up in New Zealand*

[Childhood obesity: reducing the risk through early life measures](#)

This evidence brief focuses on how early life nutrition, including prenatal exposures, caregiver feeding practices and childhood eating behaviours, contributes to overweight and obesity risk in children. *Source: Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures*

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Vaping

[The impact of vaping on adolescent mental health](#)

“This paper provides an overview of what e-cigarettes are and the prevalence of vaping among adolescents in Australia. It also describes findings from a review of the research evidence aimed at understanding the relationship between vaping and adolescent mental health and wellbeing. Research capturing adolescents’ views and attitudes on vaping is outlined and some implications for practice are provided.” *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

[“Vaping can affect your whole life, not just your lungs”: young people’s perspectives on vaping in 2023](#)

“The purpose of this research was to understand the reasons young people choose to vape or not to vape, and what supports would help a young person if they were trying to stop vaping.” *Source: Advocate for Children and Young People (NSW)*

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COVID-19

[How patient experiences can guide the development of Long COVID health policy](#)

“The Issues Brief, How patient experiences can guide the development of Long COVID health policy, co-authored by final year Griffith University PhD candidate Breanna Weigel as part of a 2023 Deeble Summer Scholarship, examines the role lived experiences can play in guiding Australian health policy in recognising and providing support to people living with Long COVID.” *Deeble Institute (Australia)*

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Women’s Health

[The impact of symptoms attributed to menopause by Australian women](#)

“The severity of symptoms that Australian women attribute to menopause in this report are similar to those previously published in scientific literature. However, the proportion of Australian women missing days of work, or taking leave or an extended break from work, is lower than some estimates being used to model and address the impact of menopause in the workplace. The report authors reiterate that each woman’s experience of menopause is unique and there are both protective and harmful factors that influence a woman’s experience of symptoms. A substantial minority of women need therapeutic interventions to alleviate menopausal symptoms, and the same proportion need no support at all, but all women need a clinical assessment at midlife to assess and manage their risk of chronic disease.” *Source: Jean Hailes for Women’s Health*

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