



Ministry of Health Library

Knowledge for health

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 locate their key areas of interest. Email library@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Disability and Social Care

[What are the opportunities and threats for further savings in adult social care?](#)

"The paper looks to both understand the ways in which councils in England have delivered savings over the past five years in adult social care and to suggest what options (if any) councils might have in how they approach a period of continuing financial challenges."

Source: Institute of Public Care

[Housing and Indigenous people living with a disability: lived experiences of housing and community infrastructure](#)

“This research aims to shed much needed light on the nexus between lived experiences of disability and housing among Indigenous Australians in order to inform how the NDIS could best meet the needs of this overlooked group within the population.” *Source: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited*

[Policy and Research Needs to Maximize Independence and Support Community](#)

[Living: Workshop Summary](#)

“To get a better understanding of the policies needed to maximize independence and support community living and of the research needed to support implementation of those policies, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a public workshop in October 2015. Participants explored policies in place that promote independence and community living for older adults and people with physical disabilities, and identified policies and gaps in policies that can be barriers to independence and the research needed to support changing those policies. This report summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source National Academies Press*

[Keeping it Personal Evaluation Report](#)

“Keeping it Personal (KiP) sought to understand how health and social care partnerships can support more person-centred and integrated practice when working in a way that focuses on people first.” *Source: Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services*

[Early intervention services for children with disability](#)

“Initiatives to improve the social and economic outcomes for individuals with disability and their families are shaping structural reform within the disability sector. Key reforms include the move away from a welfare-driven jurisdictional model, to a market-driven national approach. Within these reforms, disability services are changing to emphasise personalised and self-directed support with government grants or block funding redirected from disability service groups to the individual to purchase services and resources from preferred suppliers.” *Source: Australian National Audit Office*

[Living in Fear: Better outcomes for people with learning disabilities and autism](#)

“This project aims to fill in some of the gaps in research by exploring the views and experiences of people with learning disabilities and autism, establishing the numbers and characteristics of people experiencing victimisation and the impact on their well being. It has also explored the views and experiences of the police in responding to and dealing with reports of victimisation, and what they find difficult.” *Source: MCCH*

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Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity

[Obesity in Canada: A Whole-of-Society Approach for a Healthier Canada](#)

“This report describes an innovative, whole-of-society approach to address this important issue — and urges bold but practical steps that can and must be taken to help Canadians achieve and maintain healthy weights.” *Source: Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology*

[Interventions for Healthy Eating and Active Urban Living: A Guide for Improving Community Health](#)

“This guide is meant for community organizations and hospitals looking to implement, increase or improve their investments in population health, particularly for low income and historically disadvantaged urban communities.” *Source: New York Academy of Medicine*

[Building the foundations: Tackling obesity through planning and development](#)

“Obesity is a major public health crisis and it is now recognised that the built environment is one of the many complex factors that influence whether or not people are obese or overweight. Given the complexity of the causes of obesity, many professions need to understand the role they can play in helping to prevent and reduce its prevalence. This publication is aimed at anyone whose work influences the built environment.” *Source: UK Local Government Association*

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Tobacco Control

[Smoke-free movies: from evidence to action](#)

“This document summarizes current knowledge about smoking in films as well as current and proposed approaches to reduce the impact of such imagery. The report’s aim is to help countries understand the basis for taking action to limit the depiction of smoking in films.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Can Big Tobacco's Power Wall Be Breached?](#)

“Because regulations have curtailed tobacco advertising through traditional channels, such as billboards and magazines, tobacco companies are increasingly using these colorful displays at the point of sale as a way to keep a tobacco-friendly message before consumers on a sustained basis. Companies pay retailers substantial sums of money to locate power walls where shoppers are likely to see them. Behind the cashier is a prime location. Public health experts warn that exposure to power walls can make adolescents more likely to smoke in the future, even if they aren't conscious of the exposure. Could increased regulation of the tobacco power wall help to buffer adolescents from its negative influence on their health and well-being?” *Source: Rand Corporation*

[Tackling tobacco, addressing inequality: Report on 2015 meetings](#)

“Understanding that tobacco use is increasingly linked to inequality, the Scottish Parliamentary Cross Party Group agreed to focus on tobacco and inequalities in its work throughout 2015. This report provides a brief summary of the discussions by the Group on mental health, the density of retail outlets, smoking in pregnancy, and engaging marginalised groups.” *Source: Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Tobacco and Health*

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Health Information, Research, and Technology

[The adoption and use of digital health and care record systems: International success factors](#)

“This publication sets out the findings of a collaborative work program undertaken between the US Department of Health and Human Services, NHS England and the Health and Social Care Information Centre; to investigate ‘what good looks like’ in terms of the successful adoption and optimization of digital care records for patients.” *Source: NHS England and US Dept. of Health and Human Services*

[The One-Way Mirror: Public attitudes to commercial access to health data](#)

“A major new report into what the public think about patient records being used by commercial organisations has revealed that the majority are in favour as long as there is a clear public benefit and appropriate safeguards are in place.” *Source: Ipsos MORI*

[From innovation to implementation: eHealth in the WHO European Region](#)

“This report on the status of eHealth in the WHO European Region examines the results of the 2015 WHO global survey on eHealth to provide insight on how it is being used, major areas of development, perceived barriers to adoption and potential areas of growth.” *Source: WHO*

[Metrics That Matter for Population Health Action: Workshop Summary](#)

“In times of rapid change and constrained resources, measures that are important, focused, and reliable are vital. However there is an overabundance of measures available for evaluating various aspects of population health and previous efforts to simplify existing sets to meet the needs of all decision makers have been unsuccessful. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop to explore the status and uses of measures and measurement in the work of improving population health.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Rapid evidence reviews for health policy and practice](#)

“Health policymakers in the United States and elsewhere are increasingly interested in making evidence-based policy decisions, but require assistance navigating the large volume of material in peer-reviewed and grey literature. This trend has led many organizations to identify methods for producing high-quality evidence reviews faster than traditional systematic reviews to accommodate policymakers’ timeframes. After examining several existing rapid evidence review program models and the insights of experienced evidence reviewers, we find that there are methodological and organizational strategies that may help organizations produce rapid reviews that are high quality, timely, and relevant to policymakers’ decisions.” *Source: Academy Health*

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Primary Care

[Do financial incentives influence GPs' decisions to do after-hours work? A discrete choice labour supply model](#)

“This paper analyses doctors’ supply of after-hours care, and how it is affected by personal and family circumstances as well as the earnings structure. We use detailed survey data from a large sample of Australian General Practitioners to estimate a structural, discrete-choice model of labour supply and after-hours care. This allows us to jointly model how many daytime-weekday hours a doctor works, and his or her probability of providing after-

hours care. The underlying utility function varies across individual and family characteristics. We simulate labour supply responses to an increase in doctors' hourly earnings, both in a daytime-weekday setting and for after-hours care." *Source: Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research*

[Chronic Failure in Primary Care](#)

"Good primary care is vital for good health. But Australian primary care is failing in one crucial area: the prevention and management of chronic disease." *Source: Grattan Institute*

[Patient care: a unified approach](#)

"The Patient Care: a unified approach report, jointly prepared by The Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of General Practitioners, demonstrates how GPs and physicians are innovating to improve patient care. This report has been compiled to share learning from successful examples of integration, and to encourage GPs and physicians to reflect on their own practice." *Source: Royal College of Physicians*

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Health of Older People

[Is it nice outside? - Consulting people living with dementia and their carers about engaging with the natural environment](#)

"This report reveals that engaging in outdoor activities that have a purpose and those that involve being with other people provide the greatest motivation for people living with dementia. The report makes a series of recommendations that could encourage greater use of natural spaces by people living with dementia and their carers. For example, managers of outdoor spaces could work with local dementia action alliances to develop a Trip Advisor-style ratings system to provide information about local dementia-friendly open spaces." *Source: Natural England*

[Active ageing and the built environment](#)

"[This briefing] explains how the built environment and well-designed outdoor spaces can enhance the long-term health and wellbeing and looks at the role that social housing providers, housing with care, and local authorities can play. It also outlines key national and local policies that support active ageing and the built environment." *Source: Housing Learning & Improvement Network*

[Technology Charter For People Living with Dementia in Scotland](#)

"The Technology Charter is a call to action, calling for the delivery of health and social care to people with dementia to incorporate and promote the use of technology; helping people with the condition to live healthier, safer, more active and more confident lives as valued citizens. It also seeks to raise public and professional awareness of how technology can enhance lives, promote independent living and assist and complement care and support." *Source: Alzheimer Scotland*

[Dementia, disability and frailty in later life – mid-life approaches to delay or prevent onset](#)

“This guideline covers mid-life approaches to delay or prevent the onset of dementia, disability and frailty in later life. The guideline aims to increase the amount of time that people can be independent, healthy and active in later life.” *Source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence*

[Tomorrow's World: The future of ageing in the UK. Planning tomorrow today](#)

“This report by ILC-UK describes the future challenges and opportunities posed by an ageing population. It argues that our society is not adequately responding to ageing today.” *Source: International Longevity Centre UK*

[Alcohol use across retirement: a qualitative study of drinking in later life](#)

“This report presents the results of a qualitative exploration of older people’s drinking and the factors which influence their use of alcohol. In doing so, it locates alcohol use within the broader patterns, networks and routines that make up older people’s lives and suggests new ways of approaching alcohol use amongst older people.” *Source: Glasgow Centre for Population Health*

[Health matters: midlife approaches to reduce dementia risk](#)

“Dementia is not an inevitable part of ageing. This resource for health professionals and local authorities makes the case for action in midlife to promote healthy lifestyles that can reduce the risk of dementia.” *Source: Public Health England*

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Quality and Safety

[Patient Safety 2030](#)

“The Summit aims to inform the future of patient safety, following the informal fifteenth anniversary of the patient safety movement and publication of To Err is Human. It serves as the springboard to inspire international policy and governmental commitment to improve patient safety.” *Source: NIHR Patient Safety Translational Research Centre*

[Implementing the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative \(GTC\) quality improvement project](#)

“This project led by the University Hospital of South Manchester aimed to improve tracheostomy care by incorporating best practice initiatives from the Global Tracheostomy Collaborative (GTC) – an international quality improvement (QI) collaborative for tracheostomy care.” *Source: Health Foundation*

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Child, Youth and Maternal Health

[The relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect: an evidence review](#)

“This report identifies and discusses evidence about the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect. It explores the economic costs of child abuse and neglect and outlines broad policy implications, with a particular focus on the UK.” *Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

[Using Evidence to Strengthen Policies for Investing in Children](#)

“The primary audience for this guide is policymakers or others who make decisions related to implementing the Recommendation or other investments in children. This guide provides an overview of ways of using evidence that would best strengthen these decisions and points users to additional resources if they want more detailed information.” *Source: Rand Europe*

[Preparing for Home: a before-and-after study to investigate the effects of a neonatal discharge package aimed at increasing parental knowledge, understanding and confidence in caring for their preterm infant before and after discharge from hospital](#)

“Use of the Train-to-Home package did not affect babies’ lengths of hospital stay, or the measured self-confidence scores of parents. However, parents reported feeling more involved and knowledgeable about their babies’ care. There was also a small but statistically significant reduction in visits to emergency departments following discharge from hospital after introducing the Train-to-Home package. Despite the limited time available for staff to get used to the Train-to-Home package in this study, the results suggest that this approach may be helpful in informing and empowering parents in the care of their preterm babies after going home from hospital.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research*

[Baby and me](#)

“The Baby and Me project is an exploratory study whose aim is to better understand the incidence and experience of early pregnancy and parenthood for young women with current or recent experiences of the OHC [Out of Home-Care] system.” *Source: Anglicare Victoria*

[Health Behaviour in School-aged Children in Canada: Focus on Relationships](#)

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study is a continuing cross-national research project conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. Its aim is to contribute new knowledge about health, well-being, and associated behaviours among young people aged 11-15 years. In 2014, the 7th cycle of HBSC in Canada, the student survey was administered to 29,784 young people in 377 Canadian schools.” *Source: Government of Canada*

[Interventions for parents and families: the evidence for improving physical health and wellbeing outcomes for children](#)

“The purpose of this Evidence Brief is to describe the extent to which interventions for parents and families can improve child physical health and wellbeing outcomes.” *Source: Benevolent Society*

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Inequalities

[Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities](#)

“This guideline from NICE covers community engagement approaches to reduce health inequalities, ensure health and wellbeing initiatives are effective and help local authorities and health bodies meet their statutory obligations. The guideline complements work by

Public Health England on community engagement approaches for health and wellbeing.”
Source: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Social contexts and health: a GCPH synthesis

“Social contexts can be understood as the relationships and networks of support that people experience, the interconnections within communities, and the involvement of people and communities in decisions that affect their lives. Research has shown that these relationships and connections all have important influences on health in a range of ways. This report outlines Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) learning to date about how working with an understanding of social contexts can help improve health and tackle health inequalities.” *Source: Glasgow Centre for Population Health*

The Royal Flying Doctor Service: Responding to injuries in remote and rural Australia

“Evidence presented in this report shows that across almost every category of non-intentional and intentional injuries, incidence rates and associated death and morbidity are higher in remote and rural areas. Hospitalisations and deaths resulting from injuries increase with increasing remoteness. This disparity in injury prevalence is the focus of this report, giving voice to the needs of remote and rural Australians.” *Source: Royal Flying Doctor Service*

A Framework for Educating Health Professionals to Address the Social Determinants of Health

“Educating health professionals in and with communities negatively affected by the social determinants of health can generate awareness among those professionals about the potential root causes of ill health, contributing to more effective strategies for improving health and health care for underserved individuals, communities, and populations. This is the context in which the expert committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a highlevel framework for educating health professionals to address the SDH. The committee’s framework aligns education, health, and other sectors to better meet local needs in partnership with communities.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Public Health

Preventing Disease through Healthy Environments: A global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks

“This report presents a wide-ranging assessment and detailed findings to show by how much and in what ways improving the environment can promote health and well-being.” *Source: WHO*

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

“Ten years since adopting the Hyogo Framework for Action in Kobe shortly after the Indian Ocean Tsunami, Government representatives gathered in Sendai, Japan on 14-18 March to negotiate a new framework for global action to reduce the risks of disasters. For the first time, protecting people’s health is at the centre of such a framework.” *Source: WHO*

Potential Research Priorities to Inform Public Health and Medical Practice for Domestic Zika Virus: Workshop in Brief

“Given the recent rapid spread of Zika virus (ZIKV) throughout the Americas and the presence of its vector mosquito species within parts of the United States, RADM Nicole Lurie, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, determined an urgent need for additional research to better characterize ZIKV, especially those issues related to the means of transmission and infection during pregnancy. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a 1-day public workshop on February 16, 2016, to discuss and explore key factors associated with ZIKV.” *Source: National Academies Press*

Ensuring innovation in diagnostics for bacterial infection: implications for policy

“This study delineates priorities for developing diagnostics to improve antibiotic prescription and use, in order to manage and curb the expansion of drug resistance. It calls for new approaches, particularly in the provision of diagnostic devices, and, in doing so, outlines some of the inadequacies in health, science and policy initiatives that have led to the dearth of such devices. The authors make the case that innovation is clearly and urgently needed, not only in the technology of diagnosis but also in public policy and medical practice to support the availability and use of better diagnostic tools.” *Source: European Observatory*

Regional Action Plan for Violence and Injury Prevention in the Western Pacific (2016–2020)

"This Regional Action Plan for Violence and Injury Prevention in the Western Pacific 2016–2020 recommends immediate and sustainable steps to reduce high national burdens of violence and injuries and highlights the importance of intersectoral partnership. The plan outlines strategic actions and establishes regional targets to be achieved by 2020." *Source: WHO*

WHO in the Pacific 2014-2015

“This report is framed around the four themes adopted by the Pacific health ministers in 2015: strengthening leadership, governance and accountability; nurturing children in body and mind; reducing avoidable disease burden and premature deaths; and promoting ecological balance. The report highlights WHO’s efforts to be more responsive, to engage with partners, to seek cross-cutting initiatives, and to provide sustainable and strategic country support by aligning with national priorities and planning processes in working towards improved health outcomes for Pacific Islanders.” *Source: WHO*

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Health Systems, Costs and Reform

Building a National Culture of Health

“In 2013, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) embarked on a pioneering effort to advance a Culture of Health initiative. A Culture of Health places well-being at the center of every aspect of life, with the goal of enabling everyone in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now and for generations to come. To put this vision into action, RWJF worked with RAND to develop an action framework that identifies how the nation will work toward

achieving these outcomes. This report provides background on the development of this action framework.” *Source: Rand Corporation*

[Bringing together physical and mental health: A new frontier for integrated care](#)

“Until now, most efforts to promote integrated care have focused on bridging the gaps between health and social care or between primary and secondary care. But the NHS five year forward view has highlighted a third dimension – bringing together physical and mental health. This report makes a compelling case for this ‘new frontier’ for integration. It gives service users’ perspectives on what integrated care would look like and highlights 10 areas that offer some of the biggest opportunities for improving quality and controlling costs.”

Source: King’s Fund

[A terrible beauty: a short history of NICE](#)

“A Terrible Beauty is a relatively short account of the origins and formation of NICE, originally the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, and of its first sixteen years of operations. Together with some assessment of its impact to date.” *Source: Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program*

[Bringing care out of hospitals and into the community for people with chronic disease](#)

“This report aims to provide an overview of themes and high potential solutions arising from a five country study tour focussed on Chronic Disease Management in Community Settings. The document is not designed to be an academic piece. Its objective is to contribute to a broadening of the policy debate in Australian healthcare regarding the future role, funding, staffing and expected outputs of our already world class primary care system.” *Source: Winston Churchill Memorial Trust of Australia*

[Inclusive Growth: A New Approach to Economic Evaluation of Health Policy](#)

“This report discusses a novel approach developed by the OECD for evaluating policies based on their effects on aggregate living standards. This “inclusive growth” methodology entails constructing an index of living standards that incorporates income, life expectancy, unemployment rates, and inequality. Unlike many indexes of well-being, the weighting between factors is based on willingness to sacrifice income to achieve a benchmark life expectancy and unemployment rate.” *Source: Conference Board of Canada *sign up for free account to download*

[Fit for purpose? Workforce policy in the English NHS](#)

“Health care is a people business. The 1.4 million people who work in the English NHS are its greatest asset. As modern health care becomes ever more complex, designing effective ‘workforce policy’ – how the health service plans, trains, regulates, pays and supports its people to ensure affordable, good quality care – is one of the central challenges facing our system today. This report gives an overview of the components of workforce policy in the English NHS and the bodies which shape it. The report proposes ways in which workforce policy could be strengthened to improve the quality and productivity of care.” *Source: Health Foundation*

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Cancer and End of Life Care

[On the brink: The future of end of life care](#)

“The new Coalition report argues that shifting care out of hospitals will be better for people at the end of life and more cost effective but also warns that the right support needs to be in place at home and in other settings to enable this to happen.” *Source: Macmillan Cancer Support*

[A long and winding road: Improving communication with patients in the NHS](#)

“This paper argues that the evidence underpinning these claims is compelling. Focussing on serious illness, particularly cancer, and on end-of-life care, it acknowledges that substantive progress has been made in the last 20 years, but it identifies the distance still to be travelled.” *Source: Marie Curie*

[Conversations: Creating Choice in End of Life Care](#)

A new report released by the Australian Centre for Health Research (ACHR), *Conversations: Creating Choice in End of Life Care* finds that the roadmap to reform of End of Life Care starts with one simple, but significant and cost-effective step – conversation. *Source: Australian Centre for Health Research*

[End-of-life care and physician-assisted dying](#)

“This third volume of the BMA’s report on end-of-life care and physician-assisted dying marks the culmination of this project, bringing together our response to the research and the discussions with groups of members and experts, and making recommendations which will add to existing calls from across the sector to prioritise and improve end-of-life care.” *Source: British Medical Association*

[End of Life Care: Helping people to be cared for and die at home](#)

“Drawing on the Housing LIN’s knowledge of the sector and with input from its network members, it looks at the importance of end of life care delivered at home, describing the context, inequalities in end of life care, and examples of good or emerging practice.” *Source: Housing Learning & Improvement Network*

[Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action](#)

“The Scottish Government’s new cancer strategy published on 15 March 2016. A strategy to tackle cancer by improving prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and after care for those affected. *Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action*, will serve as the future blueprint for cancer care in Scotland over the next five to ten years.” *Source: Scottish Government*

[Ovarian Cancers: Evolving Paradigms in Research and Care](#)

“*Ovarian Cancers* examines the state of the science in ovarian cancer research, identifies key gaps in the evidence base and the challenges to addressing those gaps, considers opportunities for advancing ovarian cancer research, and examines avenues for translation and dissemination of new findings and communication of new information to patients and others. This study makes recommendations for public- and private-sector efforts that could facilitate progress in reducing the incidence of morbidity and mortality from ovarian cancers.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Appropriate Use of Advanced Technologies for Radiation Therapy and Surgery in Oncology: Workshop Summary](#)

“In recent years, the field of oncology has witnessed a number of technological advances, including more precise radiation therapy and minimally invasive surgical techniques. Three-dimensional (3D), stereotactic, and proton-beam radiation therapy, as well as laparoscopy and robotic surgery, can enhance clinician's ability to treat conditions that were clinically challenging with conventional technologies, and may improve clinical outcomes or reduce treatment-related problems for some patients. Both patients and physicians seek access to these new technologies, which are rapidly being adopted into standard clinical practice. Such demand is often propelled by marketing that portrays the new technologies as the “latest and greatest” treatments available. However, evidence is often lacking to support these claims, and these novel technologies usually come with higher price tags and are often used to treat patients who might have achieved similar benefits from less expensive, conventional treatment.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Mental Health

Defining and delivering effective counselling and psychotherapy

“This paper reviews the evidence for the effectiveness of counselling and psychotherapy, and highlights the factors that contribute to its success.” *Source: Child Family Community Australia*

Understanding and Addressing Food Addiction

“This white paper reviews and summarizes hundreds of scientific research papers by leading experts in the fields of addiction, eating disorders, obesity and nutrition to lay out the shared characterizing symptoms, risk factors and underlying neurobiological characteristics between food and substance addiction. It describes the differences between food addiction and binge eating disorder (now an official psychiatric diagnosis). It offers evidence-based recommendations for policy, prevention, health care practice and research, and offers informative resources for further examination of this emergent area of work. Finally, it highlights how the knowledge and experience gained from years of research, prevention and intervention work in tobacco, alcohol and other drug control might be applied to controlling another leading threat to the public health: unhealthy eating, overweight and obesity.”
Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse

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