



Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

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

Issue 56, 2018, April

Welcome to Grey Matter, the Ministry of Health Library's Grey Literature Bulletin. In each issue, we provide access to a selection of the most recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government reports that are relevant to the health context. The goal of this newsletter is to facilitate access to material that may be more difficult to locate (in contrast to journal articles and the news media). Information is arranged by topic, allowing readers to quickly identify their key areas of interest. Email library@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Calorie reduction: the scope and ambition for action](#)

"This report sets out the evidence on children's calorie consumption and the details of a calorie reduction programme. For the calorie reduction programme, the reports sets out: the overall ambition and structure of the programme; the food categories included; suggested

mechanisms for action; and timeline and next steps for Public Health England.” *Source: Public Health England*

[Examining Consumer Responses to Calorie Information on Restaurant Menus in a Discrete Choice Experiment](#)

“How do calorie labels on restaurant menus affect consumers? RAND researchers designed an online experiment to find out. Among participants who chose at least one item, labels reduced the amount of calories selected by 7 percent. Also, displaying calorie counts did not affect how the participants rated the restaurants.” *Source: Rand*

[Nutrigenomics and the Future of Nutrition](#)

“On December 5, 2017, the Food Forum of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a public workshop in Washington, DC, to review current knowledge in the field of nutrigenomics and to explore the potential impact of personalized nutrition on health maintenance and chronic disease prevention. This publication highlights key points made by individual speakers during the workshop presentations and discussions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[An overview of links between obesity and food systems: implications for the agriculture GP agenda](#)

“This report, published by The World Bank, discusses direct and indirect policies, as well as program and project actions affecting diets with a focus on overweight and obesity, but not exclusively so. This is couched upon the realization that many of the suggested actions for reducing overweight and obesity also serve the purpose of reducing under nutrition and or micronutrient deficiency.” *Source: World Bank*

[Bite size: breaking down the challenge of inner-city childhood obesity](#)

“Written in partnership with the Behavioural Insights Team, this report features the views of experts from across health, education, food and business. It argues for creating environments that make healthy choices the norm, and on breaking the link between childhood obesity and deprivation.” *Source: Guy’s & St. Thomas’ Charity*

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Health of Older People

[The organisation of risk: how do dementia care providers adapt to regulation?](#)

“The relationship between regulation, care provision and risk has been an area of continuing policy debate. How dementia care providers handle regulation contributes to the quality of dementia care and the monitoring and enforcement of care standards.” *Source: Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre*

[Medicines optimisation in care homes: programme overview](#)

“This guidance outlines details of a programme which aims to recruit pharmacists into care homes to help reduce overmedication and cut unnecessary hospital stays.” *Source: Pharmacy Integration Fund*

[Conversations for change: What should an age-friendly community look like in 2050?](#)

“In 2006, the World Health Organisation brought together decision makers from 33 cities of varying sizes throughout the world to discover what makes a city a good place in which to grow old. Crucially, this initiative involved older people at every stage. The conclusion was that age friendly cities and communities are places where older people live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved. *Source: Old Colonists’ Association of Victoria*

Managing the hospital and social care interface: interventions targeting older adults

“Given the national policy drive for better integrated care across sectors, what examples already exist of individual hospitals and social care providers working together to reduce delayed transfers of care, length of hospital stay and admissions for older people - and how successful are they?” *Source: Nuffield Trust*

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Child & Youth Health

The first thousand days - our greatest opportunity

“The best opportunity to build a strong foundation for lifelong health and wellbeing occurs during the first 1000 days – the period from conception, throughout pregnancy, and during a child’s first two years. This Policy Brief outlines the implications of this critical time, identifies factors that place children at risk, and recommends a coordinated approach that addresses children’s needs in order to optimise their health and wellbeing, now and into the future.”

Source: Murdoch Children's Research Institute

International comparisons of health and wellbeing in early childhood

“This report presents data on health and wellbeing for early childhood in the UK and 14 comparable countries, recognising the particular influence that a child’s development in this period can have on his or her future health and quality of life. We consider the benefits and challenges of comparing child health indicators between countries, to inform local and national policy and practice that improves the health of children and families in this country.”

Source: Nuffield Trust

Feasibility study: developing the capability for population surveillance using indicators of child development outcomes aged 2 to 2 and a half years

“[The authors share their findings around] testing the viability of using data, which is already collected at a local level from the application of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), to enable population surveillance of child development outcomes aged 2 to 2 and a half years. The report also tests the suitability of indicators in discrete areas of child development for publication in the Public Health Outcomes Framework at national and local levels and the possibilities for using this data to assess inequalities in these outcomes at a level of granularity which is currently hidden.” *Source: Public Health England*

Young people and sexting: Attitudes and behaviours

“The Office of the eSafety Commissioner (Australia), Netsafe (New Zealand) and UK Safer Internet Centre with the University of Plymouth (UK) have collaborated on research culminating in this report on young people’s experience of sending and sharing nude and nearly nude images, otherwise known as sexting.” *Source: Netsafe*

[Investing Early: Taking Stock of Outcomes and Economic Returns from Early Childhood Programs](#)

“The past two decades have been characterized by a growing body of research from diverse disciplines — child development, psychology, neuroscience, and economics, among others — demonstrating the importance of establishing a strong foundation in the early years of life. The research evidence has served to document the range of early childhood services that can successfully put children and families on the path toward lifelong health and well-being, especially those at greatest risk of poor outcomes.” *Source: Rand*

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Palliative Care

[Models and Strategies to Integrate Palliative Care Principles into Care for People with Serious Illness: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“Palliative care is the interdisciplinary specialty focused on improving quality of life for people with serious illness and their families. This interdisciplinary care is provided by doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and others who work together with the patient’s other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. Such care is appropriate for people at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided together with curative treatment to address clinical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual concerns of the patient and their family. To better understand how the principles of palliative care can be integrated into the overall provision of care and services to those facing serious illness, the Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness held a public workshop in April 2017. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Life Before Death : Improving Palliative Care for Older Australians](#)

“The notion that the problems associated with modern death and dying can be solved simply by allowing more Australians to die at home is an oversimplification. Moreover, the myth that most people want to die at home, but don’t, has also unhelpfully reinforced the popular fear that grim, distressing, painful and undignified “natural death” in hospital should be avoided at all costs. These myths undermine the broader benefits that good palliative care can provide for patients.” *Source: Centre for Independent Studies*

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Public Health

[Housing and health: opportunities for sustainability and transformation partnerships](#)

“[This] new report sets out areas where sustainability and transformation partnerships and emerging integrated care systems can make more of the contribution of the housing sector to improving health.” *Source: King’s Fund*

[Improving pharmacist involvement in pandemic influenza planning and response in Australia](#)

“This Issues Brief makes recommendations about how pharmacists in Australia can be better utilised for pandemic influenza preparedness and response. These recommendations

are directed at State and Territory health departments but will require engagement and action from stakeholders such as frontline pharmacists, professional pharmacy organisations, Primary Health Networks and Local Hospital Networks. Appropriate engagement and communication among these key stakeholders will assist with pharmacists' response to the next pandemic in Australia." *Source: Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research*

[Chief Medical Officer annual report 2017: health impacts of all pollution – what do we know?](#)

"Professor Dame Sally Davies's ninth independent report as CMO discusses the threat to health posed by pollution to people living in England." *Source: UK Government*

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Long-Term Conditions & Prevention

[The state of self care in Australia](#)

"The evidence considered in this review establishes that the state of self-care and self-management policy, programs and support in Australia is fragile at best. While many health policy documents talk about the importance of health literacy – the understanding and ability of individuals to understand and make better-informed choices about their health and health care – and sometimes about either self-care or self-management in health care, these terms are ill-defined, poorly understood and not backed by systematic and programmatic support. Typically, the terms are used but not defined in policy documents, with the benefits of both asserted rather than demonstrated." *Source: Australian Health Policy Collaboration*

[Tackling multiple unhealthy risk factors: emerging lessons from practice](#)

"•This report shares learning and insight from services that are using innovative ways to address the problem of multiple unhealthy risk factors in their populations. It draws on interviews and information from eight case studies in local authorities and the NHS and updates the evidence base on tackling multiple unhealthy risk factors." *Source: King's Fund*

[Diabetes care and management in Indigenous populations in Canada – Summary report of a pan-Canadian policy roundtable](#)

"This report provides a summary of the proceedings from the IHE roundtable on diabetes care and management in Indigenous populations in Canada, held on November 1, 2017. The roundtable aimed to: discuss and share learnings and promising practices from successful community-led diabetes programs, highlighting approaches to effectively engage communities to co-develop prevention and treatment programs that meet community needs; and articulate lessons arising from informed discussion to support the development of policy and strategy at provincial and federal levels that, over the longer term, supports systemic change and effective community engagement for developing diabetes and other chronic disease preventions programs." *Source: Institute for Health Economics*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reform

[Safety Issues at Transitions of Care: Consultation report on pain points relating to clinical systems](#)

“This document presents a summary of the outcomes of consultations undertaken by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) on safety issues and ‘pain points’ relating to clinical information systems at transitions of care. It is accompanied by a summary of the literature.” *Source: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care*

[How population health management will deliver a sustainable NHS](#)

“This report explores the potential of population health management (PHM) to deliver a more sustainable version of the NHS by looking at what it takes to develop an integrated healthcare model, evaluating system maturity to embrace PHM, and drawing on case studies from both the UK and the US.” *Source: IBM Watson Health*

[Investing in social services as a core strategy for healthcare organizations: Developing the business case](#)

“Despite the widespread acknowledgement of the importance of addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) to improve outcomes and lower medical costs, observed investments tend to be modest in scale and temporary, often funded through time-limited grants or launched as pilots without a long-term strategy. This research-based guide explores the current landscape of investments targeting SDOH as well as approaches to accelerate the uptake of SDOH investments into healthcare business operations.” *Source: KPMG*

[EBCD: Experience-based co-design toolkit](#)

“The toolkit includes short videos from staff and patients involved in experience-based co-design (EBCD) projects to help bring to life the successes and intense rewards of running this type of improvement project.” *Source: Point of Care Foundation*

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Equity & Inequity

[What Makes Us Healthy? An Introduction to the Social Determinants of Health](#)

“The Health Foundation has written this guide as a brief introduction to the social determinants of health. It explains how a person’s opportunity for health is influenced by factors outside the health and social care system. It also shows that many people don’t have the same opportunities to be as healthy as others.” *Source: Health Foundation*

[Community-Based Health Literacy Interventions: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“To get a better understanding of the state of community-based health literacy interventions, the Roundtable on Health Literacy hosted a workshop on July 19, 2017 on community-based health literacy interventions. It featured examples of community-based health literacy programs, discussions on how to evaluate such programs, and the actions the field can take to embrace this larger view of health literacy. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[**A Proposed Framework for Integration of Quality Performance Measures for Health Literacy, Cultural Competence, and Language Access Services: Proceedings of a Workshop**](#)

“To foster an integrated approach to health literacy, cultural competency, and language access services, the Roundtable on Health Literacy initiated a project with three components: a commissioned paper to propose a framework for integrating measurements of health literacy, cultural competency, and language access; a workshop to review and discuss the framework; and a second commissioned paper that will provide a roadmap for integrating health literacy, cultural competency, and language access services as well as a revised measurement framework. Held on May 4, 2017, the workshop explored the quality performance measures for integration of health literacy, cultural competence, and language access services. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[**Achieving Rural Health Equity and Well-Being: Proceedings of a Workshop**](#)

“The relative sparseness of the population in rural areas is one of many factors that influence the health and well-being of rural Americans. Rural areas have histories, economies, and cultures that differ from those of cities and from one rural area to another. Understanding these differences is critical to taking steps to improve health and well-being in rural areas and to reduce health disparities among rural populations. To explore the impacts of economic, demographic, and social issues in rural communities and to learn about asset-based approaches to addressing the associated challenges, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a workshop on June 13, 2017. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Disability & Social Care

[**Ageing and Disability: Beyond Stereotypes to Inclusion**](#)

“Many different groups of people are subject to stereotypes. Positive stereotypes (e.g., “older and wiser”) may provide a benefit to the relevant groups. However, negative stereotypes of aging and of disability continue to persist and, in some cases, remain socially acceptable. Research has shown that when exposed to negative images of aging, older persons demonstrate poor physical and cognitive performance and function, while those who are exposed to positive images of aging (or who have positive self-perceptions of aging) demonstrate better performance and function. Furthermore, an individual’s expectations about and perceptions of aging can predict future health outcomes. To better understand how stereotypes affect older adults and individuals with disabilities, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, with support from AARP, convened a public workshop on October 10, 2017. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[**Preventing abuse and promoting personal safety in young people with disability: full report**](#)

“This research addresses a knowledge gap about personal safety and abuse prevention by exploring the perspectives of young people with disability, their supporters and families

about feeling safe and developing strategies to stay safe.” *Source: Southern Cross University*

[The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care](#)

“The Select Committee on the Long-term Sustainability of the NHS has slammed the 'short sightedness' of successive governments for failing to plan effectively for the long-term future of the health service and adult social care.” *Site: UK Parliament*

[More than bricks: are social housing providers best placed to offer support to tenants?](#)

“This report argues that social housing providers should take a lead in delivering support packages to help people overcome barriers in their lives. In a survey of tenants and providers, it finds that social housing providers are already offering support for health and wellbeing but that there was a demand for greater levels of support, particularly around mental health.” *Source: Acis Group*

[Growing innovative models of health, care and support for adults](#)

“There are some really good examples of innovative models of health, social care and support for adults. The challenge now is to scale up these primarily small-scale successes so that as many people benefit from them as possible.” *Source: Social Care Institute for Excellence*

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Mental Health

[Wellbeing and Mental Distress in Aotearoa New Zealand: Snapshot 2016](#)

“Participants reported that the experience of mental distress was common (personally or among people they knew) and that mental distress was more than depression and/or anxiety, and included feeling isolated, overwhelmed by stress and not being able to cope. Awareness of mental distress in self or others was associated with more positive attitudes but participants indicated a reluctance to disclose mental distress in some environments, such as workplaces. Social isolation (also known as loneliness) emerged as an important concern. It was strongly associated with depression, anxiety and other forms of distress, particularly among young people.” *Source: Health Promotion Agency*

[Forward Thinking - NIHR research on support for people with severe mental illness](#)

“This review highlights a selection of NIHR-funded research on aspects of severe mental illness such as supporting early detection and intervention, crisis care, supporting recovery and managing physical and mental health.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research*

[An evaluation of the Standing Together project](#)

“This evaluation sought to understand whether the Standing Together (ST) peer-support groups, which took place between 2015 and 2017, impacted on outcomes related to: loneliness and social isolation; emotional wellbeing; and meaningful activity.” *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

[Violence and Mental Health: Opportunities for Prevention and Early Detection](#)

“On February 26–27, 2014, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Forum on Global Violence Prevention convened a workshop titled Mental Health and Violence: Opportunities for Prevention and Early Intervention. The workshop brought together advocates and experts in public health and mental health, anthropology, biomedical science, criminal justice, global health and development, and neuroscience to examine experience, evidence, and practice at the intersection of mental health and violence. Participants explored how violence impacts mental health and how mental health influences violence and discussed approaches to improve research and practice in both domains. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Drug & Alcohol Use

[Our invisible addicts](#)

“For too long, the topic of substance misuse in older people has been ignored. A new approach, that is non-discriminatory, comprehensive and needs-led, is now essential.”
Source: Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK)

[Evidence on the nature and extent of alcohol promotion and the consequences for young people's alcohol consumption](#)

“This report provides an overview of the nature, extent, and impact of alcohol promotion, with a specific focus on the influence of alcohol promotion on young people.” *Source: Curtin University*

[Advancing Therapeutic Development for Pain and Opioid Use Disorders Through Public-Private Partnerships](#)

“In May 2017, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Institute on Drug Abuse announced a public–private partnership to develop solutions to the opioid crisis and cut in half the time it takes to develop non-addictive analgesics. To advance the planning of NIH’s anticipated public–private partnerships, the National Academies’ Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous Systems Disorders hosted a public workshop that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from academia, federal agencies, advocacy organizations and companies developing therapeutics for pain and opioid use disorders. Participants discussed potential strategies to accelerate development of non-addictive pain medications and treatments for opioid use disorders. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Health Information, Research, & Technology

[Enabling Novel Treatments for Nervous System Disorders by Improving Methods for Traversing the Blood–Brain Barrier](#)

“Despite substantial advances in developing treatments for the serious illnesses that affect people worldwide, there remains a tremendous unmet need in the treatment of complex neurologic diseases, including neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders. Chief

among the challenges that have hindered the development of therapeutics for central nervous system (CNS) disorders is the blood–brain barrier (BBB). The Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a workshop to explore the challenges associated with the BBB that have thus far stymied development of CNS drugs, examine new technologies that could address these challenges, and highlight potential opportunities for moving the field forward. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.”
Source: National Academies Press

[Frontline online: smarter blue light services](#)

“This paper finds that police, ambulance and fire services can respond more swiftly and accurately to emergency calls if they have access to better information on callers and situations. It concludes that better sharing of data is essential to exploit new technology.”
Source: Reform (UK)

[Instant messaging in the NHS: an exploration of the relationship between consumer messaging applications and modern healthcare delivery](#)

“Delivering a high standard of care relies on effective frontline communication. This report explores the reasons why UK healthcare professionals are turning to consumer messaging apps to meet this need.” *Source: CommonTime*

[Implementing and Evaluating Genomic Screening Programs in Health Care Systems](#)

“The goals of genomics-based programs may be to identify individuals with clinically actionable variants as a way of preventing disease, providing diagnoses for patients with rare diseases, and advancing research on genetic contributions to health and disease. Of particular interest are genomics- based screening programs, which will, in this publication, be clinical screening programs that examine genes or variants in unselected populations in order to identify individuals who are at an increased risk for a particular health concern (e.g., diseases, adverse drug outcomes) and who might benefit from clinical interventions.”
Source: National Academies Press

[The Impact of Digital Health on Safety and Quality of Healthcare](#)

“The report will assist governments and healthcare organisations to identify elements of digitisation in health care that best improve the safety and quality of patient care. It will also help healthcare organisations to monitor their digital progress against best-practice targets, and to increase the value they derive from their digital activities.” *Source: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care*

[Whole genome sequencing of babies](#)

“Whole genome sequencing of babies explores the ethical issues raised by whole genome sequencing of babies.” *Source: Nuffield Council on Bioethics*

[Making sense of evidence: A guide to using evidence in policy](#)

“Use this guide to help you take a structured approach to using evidence at every stage of the policy or programme development cycle or evaluation design.” *Source: Social Policy Research and Evaluation Unit*

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