Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

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

Issue 68, 2019, 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.

Click on any of the bulleted points below to go to a section of interest.

Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

Prevention before cure: prioritising population health
"This policy paper contains a suggested framework for a cross-government approach to prioritising population health. The framework outlines four areas that should be considered: addressing the social determinants that influence health; increased and sustained funding

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for public health; prioritising prevention through the health service; and effective regulation to tackle key drivers of ill-health." *Source: British Medical Association*

The impact of decentralisation on the performance of health care systems
"This paper examines the relationship between the degree of administrative decentralisation across levels of government in health care decision-making and health care spending, life expectancy as well as hospital costs." *Source: OECD*

Behavioral science around the world: profiles of 10 countries
"With an increasing number of public bodies became interested in leveraging behavioral insights for improving policies and services, questions have emerged around how best to integrate this function into government operations, how projects should be selected, and what guidelines can aid public bodies in incorporating behavioral insights. This report aims to capture both the spread and form of behavioral science in 10 countries, selected based on being innovators or early adopters in the field: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Peru, Singapore, the U.S., and the UK." *Source: World Bank*

Home to the Unknown: Getting Hospital Discharge Right
"This report from the Red Cross examines patients' experience of discharge from hospital and their transition from hospital to home." *Source: British Red Cross*

Australian health services: too complex to navigate
"This report shows that national reviews consistently agreed on the same underlying challenges and that new models of health care delivery and financing were required to address these challenges. The reviews differed in the emphasis given to clinical and financial matters; they varied in their proposals for specific changes to the mix of finances. However, and most tellingly, the reviews considered in this report all highlighted the current complexity of arrangements as a major impediment to improving both the patient experience and health outcomes, and the efficiency of the system." *Source: Australian Health Policy Collaboration*

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Child & Youth Wellbeing

What Makes a Good Life? Children and Young People's Views on Wellbeing
The authors "asked children and young people for their views on what wellbeing means to them. [They] heard from more than 6,000 children and young people about what a good life is and what they thought were the most important areas to focus on to make things better for all children and young people." *Source: Office of the Children's Commissioner (New Zealand)*

What is known about systems that enable the 'public health approach' to protecting children: consultation paper
"This project investigates what is known about systems that enable the 'public health approach' to protecting children." *Source: Productivity Commission (Australia)*

A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty

"A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty reviews the research on linkages between child poverty and child well-being, and analyzes the poverty-reducing effects of major assistance programs directed at children and families. This report also provides policy and program recommendations for reducing the number of children living in poverty in the United States by half within 10 years." *Source: National Academies Press*

[The next generation: how intergenerational interaction improves life chances of children and young people](#)
"Much of the media coverage of the growing number of intergenerational projects has focused on the benefits for older people – from improving health and care to tackling loneliness. This paper focuses on the benefits for the next generation – children and young people who currently face a growing crisis of confidence, loneliness and anxiety, often fearful about the future, fragmented families, segregated by age, with cuts in services and financial support." *Source: United for All Ages*

[Childhood circumstances and young adult outcomes: the role of mothers' financial problems](#)
"This paper considers the consequences on young adults of growing up with a mother who reported experiencing major financial problems." *Source: Centre for Economic Performance*

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Societal Wellbeing

[Trends in life expectancy in EU and other OECD countries: Why are improvements slowing?](#)
"This paper reports on trends in life expectancy in the 28 EU countries and some other high-income OECD countries, and examines potential explanations for the slowdown in improvements in recent years." *Source: OECD*

[World Happiness Report 2019](#)
"This year after presenting [the] usual country rankings of life evaluations, and tracing the evolution since 2005 of life evaluations, positive affect, negative affect, and six key explanatory factors, the authors consider more broadly some of the main forces that influence happiness by changing the ways in which communities and their members interact with each other." *Source: United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network*

[Happy now? Lessons for economic policy makers from a focus on subjective well-being](#)
"Interest in subjective measures of well-being has been increasing in recent years. This growing focus on measuring how people judge the quality of their own life undoubtedly provides a rich new perspective on living standards that merits detailed exploration in its own right. But what can it teach policymakers about the areas they should be focusing on in order to most effectively boost wellbeing across society? To dig into that question this paper focuses specifically on the relationship between subjective well-being and a variety of economic living standards measures; asking not just whether the latter are linked with the former, but how?" *Source: Resolution Foundation (UK)*

Person-Centred Care & Planning

Kia kōrero | Let's talk advance care planning
"Kia kōrero | Let's talk advance care planning is an exciting new campaign that encourages people to plan for their future health care. It features the personal stories of six New Zealanders at different stages of life and wellness." *Source: Health Quality & Safety Commission (New Zealand)*

Quick Reference Guide to Promising Care Models for Patients with Complex Needs
"Many pioneering programs have reduced avoidable utilization of care and lowered costs while improving health outcomes for adults with complex needs. The most promising models target high-risk populations and provide key elements of person-centered care, including individualized care plans, interdisciplinary care teams, active care coordination, and continuous information-sharing with providers and patients." *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

Health of Older People

Older people living well with in-home support
"Significant changes have been made to the way in- home support for older people is delivered in Australia. The Australian government, via the Commonwealth Department of Health, funded Dr Russell to investigate the impact of these changes from the 'consumer' perspective." *Source: Research Matters*

Navigating the maze: an overview of Australia's current aged care system - background paper 1
"Background Paper 1 is called Navigating the maze: an overview of Australia's current aged care system. It outlines different aspects of the aged care system, the services currently being delivered in Australia and the areas in need of substantial reform." *Source: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety*

A Menu of Interventions for Productive Healthy Ageing: For pharmacy teams working in different settings
"The Menu of Interventions (MOIs) for productive health ageing is a guide that pharmacy teams working in different healthcare settings can use to support older people to improve the quality of their lives. It suggests opportunistic, evidence-based interventions that can help provide benefits for healthy ageing." *Source: Public Health England*

Social Care

Proceed with caution: what makes personal budgets work?
"This report provides a critical examination of how personal budgets have been used to deliver public services in the UK. It suggests where personal budgets show potential to

deliver more effective, personalised public services, whilst also highlighting and proposing solutions to the key challenges raised by their implementation so far." *Source: Reform (UK)*

[Harnessing the power of client experience: the collection and use of client feedback in the social sector](#)
"To help social purpose organisations improve their use of client feedback, this report provides a framework for an effective client feedback system in the social sector and practical advice on how to start using one." *Source: Social Ventures Australia*

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Mental Health & Suicide

[Outcomes for mental health services: what really matters?](#)
"There has been an increasing interest in the concept of value-based health care and how resources are allocated to improve outcomes. However, measuring outcomes in mental health services is often complex and fraught with difficulty, with professionals and service users often having very different perspectives on the nature of mental illness and the role of services in addressing it." *Source: King's Fund*

[Equally well in Victoria: Physical health framework for specialist mental health services](#)
"Equally well in Victoria places consumers at the centre of making decisions about their physical health. The framework describes five interconnected clinical practice domains that are underpinned by seven core practice principles that support physical health care in Victorian specialist mental health services." *Source: Department of Human Services (Australia)*

[Improving Care to Prevent Suicide Among People with Serious Mental Illness: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)
"On September 11-12, 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a workshop in Washington, DC, to discuss preventing suicide among people with serious mental illness. The workshop was designed to illustrate and discuss what is known, what is currently being done, and what needs to be done to identify and reduce suicide risk. Improving Care to Prevent Suicide Among People with Serious Mental Illness summarizes presentations and discussions of the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Pasifika media guidelines for reporting suicide in New Zealand](#)
"The guidelines in this brochure have been co-produced and co-designed for Pasifika journalists, broadcasters, and other media who may report or comment publicly on suicide in New Zealand. The development of this resource has been led by Le Va, who also lead New Zealand's first national Pasifika suicide prevention programme— FLO:Pasifika for Life. FLO aims to engage, inform, and equip Pasifika communities with the information, tools, and resources they need to prevent suicide and the harm caused by suicide." *Source: Le Va (New Zealand)*

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Technology

Using digital technology to design and deliver better mental health services: perspectives from Australia and the USA
"Across the world, people experiencing mental health problems face challenges accessing care and support. The purpose of this project is to explore what we in the UK might learn from colleagues in the USA and Australia engaged in work relating to making better use of digital technology in the mental health sector." *Source: NHS Confederation*

#NewFilters to manage the impact of social media on young people's mental health and wellbeing
"The report explores the positive and negative health impacts of social media, as well as putting forward recommendations to protect young social media users from potential health harms." *Source: Royal Society for Public Health*

Living Digitally – An evaluation of the CleverCogs digital care and support system
"It is anticipated that the successful deployment of technology in the delivery of health and social care can deliver a range of benefits." *Source: Just Economics*

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Equity

Equality works
"This second annual Global Health 50/50 report reviews the gender-related policies and practices of almost 200 organisations that are either active in global health and/or seek to influence it. The sample includes organisations from 10 sectors, headquartered in 28 countries across six regions and together employ an estimated 4.5 million people." *Source: Global Health 50/50*

Close the Gap: Our Choices, Our Voices
"The stories profiled in this report demonstrate that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved in the design of the services they need, we are far more likely to achieve success. These stories illustrate that 'our choice and our voice' are vital if we are to make gains and start to close the gap." *Source: The Lowitja Institute*

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Public Health

Global Influenza Strategy 2019–2030
"WHO developed the Global Influenza Strategy for 2019–2030 to enhance global and national pandemic preparedness, to combat the ongoing threat of zoonotic influenza, and to improve seasonal influenza prevention and control in all countries. The strategy presents a unifying vision, and global goals and priorities that will rely on commitments from WHO, countries and partners for full implementation." *Source: WHO*

Improving outdoor air quality and health: review of interventions

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"Public Health England (PHE) was commissioned by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to review the evidence for practical interventions to reduce harm from outdoor air pollution, stratified by their health and economic impact." *Source: Public Health England*

[The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition and Climate Change: The Lancet Commission report](#)
"The Report of the Lancet Commission on Obesity demonstrates that the pandemics of obesity, undernutrition, and climate change represent the paramount challenge for humans, the environment and our planet." *Source: The Lancet*

[NHS screening programmes in England](#)
"This report focuses on some of the highlights of the NHS population screening programmes that help deliver important public health improvements in England." *Source: Public Health England*

[Monitoring and restricting digital marketing of unhealthy products to children and adolescents](#)
"This report calls for greater monitoring of the digital marketing of alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy food products, especially those high in salt, sugar and fat." *Source: WHO*

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Drug & Alcohol Use

[Is alcohol and energy drink consumption associated with antisocial behaviour?](#)
"The consumption of alcohol mixed with energy drinks (AmED) has become popular in Australia, particularly among young people. AmED research suggests there are associations between AmED consumption and harmful behaviours, including criminal offences. This study investigated the behaviours of a group of AmED consumers known to engage in high-risk activities—police detainees." *Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*

[Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Save Lives](#)
"To support the dissemination of accurate patient-focused information about treatments for addiction, and to help provide scientific solutions to the current opioid crisis, this report studies the evidence base on medication assisted treatment (MAT) for OUD. It examines available evidence on the range of parameters and circumstances in which MAT can be effectively delivered and identifies additional research needed." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Strategies to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harms and Costs in Canada: A Review of Federal Policies](#)
This report "provides detailed assessments of the extent to which the federal government is implementing evidence-based policies that may reduce alcohol-related harm in Canada." *Source: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research*

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