



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

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

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## Health Systems, Costs, & Transformation

### [Strengthening Health Systems: A Practical Handbook for Resilience Testing](#)

“Seizing a narrowing policy window in a post-pandemic context, the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, with support from the European Commission, developed a comprehensive methodology culminating in a handbook on "Strengthening Health

Systems: A Practical Handbook for Resilience Testing." Inspired by stress tests in various sectors, this methodology was piloted in Finland, Greece, and Spain throughout 2023. The handbook provides health policy makers with tools to assess and enhance their systems' resilience. This is intended to foster policy dialogues and the identification of structural weaknesses as the starting point for targeted investments and remedial policies that will allow health systems to withstand the impact of future shocks more effectively." *Source: OECD*

#### [Transforming for value-based health care: lessons from NHS Wales](#)

"The sustainability of healthcare systems around the world are under threat - with the way we design and deliver care in need of reform. The international movement of value-based health care (VBHC) presents a structured, whole of system approach to bring all parts of the system together to drive transformational reform that addresses the complex interplay of the issues undermining sustainability." *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

#### [What the NHS can and cannot learn from the Singaporean health care system](#)

"This paper focuses specifically on primary care, and argues that Singaporean-style polyclinics and telemedicine could help drive efficiency in the UK, as they have done in Singapore." *Source: Social Market Foundation (UK)*

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## **Public Health**

#### [Learnings from COVID-19 for future respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness: a summary of the literature](#)

"A scoping literature review of learnings from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic was commissioned by WHO to inform operational priorities for future respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness. The learnings are grouped according to WHO's subsystems for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience. Key takeaway messages include: 1) Preparedness works; 2) Health is everyone's business; 3) No one is safe until everyone is safe; and 4) Response must be agile and adaptive. The review will support pandemic planners at all levels to develop and update preparedness and response plans." *Source: World Health Organization*

#### [Green and healthy Nordic cities: How to plan, design, and manage health-promoting urban green space](#)

"This handbook aims to increase awareness and deliver knowledge to planners and policymakers on how to plan, design, and govern urban green space to promote human health and well-being. It builds on the scientific evidence showing the potential of green space to positively influence people's health and well-being." *Source: Nordregio*

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## **Equity**

#### [Hei whakaarotanga: engaging with models of health and wellbeing that draw on mātauranga Māori](#)

“The paper introduces models of wellbeing that draw on aspects of mātauranga Māori which, in this context, we describe as key concepts and understandings from te ao Māori. Some are fully grounded in te ao Māori, others braid together mātauranga Māori and Western knowledge, and all conceptualise wellbeing in holistic, inclusive ways that are not often prioritised in Western models.”  
*Source: New Zealand Council for Educational Research*

### [Violence within whānau and mahi tūkino - A litany of sound revisited](#)

This review “provides current information, explores some areas raised in A Litany of Sound in greater detail and expands the context for Māori living with violence and mahi tūkino. Eliminating violence and mahi tūkino affecting whānau Māori must be a collective effort led by Māori. Addressing the contextual, historical and social conditions must underpin such an effort that enables the persistence of intergenerational violence and trauma within whānau Māori.” *Source: Te Pūkotahitanga – Tangata Whenua Advisory Group*

### [Talavou o le Moana: The Health and Wellbeing of Pacific Secondary School Students in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

“Talavou o le Moana summarises key findings for Pacific secondary school students in the areas of ethnic and gender identity; family and faith; socioeconomic environments and housing; education; friends and community connections; physical, mental and sexual health; substance use; and healthcare access. This data report gives a vital snapshot into the lives of Pacific young people. This information was collected as part of the Youth19 Rangatahi Smart Survey, the latest in the Youth2000 survey series conducted by the Adolescent Health Research Group (AHRG). The findings highlight the resilience and strength of Pacific talavou (young people), and the complexities they must navigate.” *Source: Youth19 (New Zealand)*

### [A Blueprint for Promoting Equitable Health and Health Care through Community-Led Initiatives](#)

“Institution-led health equity initiatives often fail to produce effective, sustainable changes, in part because of superficial partnerships with the community that the interventions are intended to benefit. Community members have valuable knowledge and skills that are often underappreciated in these collaborations. In this blueprint, [the authors] present real world examples of how community-led efforts can bring about equitable health outcomes. [They] highlight commonalities in approach, structure, and needs among community organizations.” *Source: Urban Institute*

### [Equity in medical devices: independent review](#)

“The review, which has now concluded, advised the government on the health impact of potential ethnic and other biases in medical devices and made recommendations for more equitable solutions.” *Source: UK Government*

### [Exploring the Power of Youth Leadership in Creating Conditions for Health and Equity](#)

“Young people often engage and lead efforts to improve the social, economic, and environmental factors that influence the health and equity of communities and the nation. The National Academies Roundtable on Population Health Improvement hosted a hybrid public workshop in September 2023 at The California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities in Oakland, California to discuss the power of youth leadership in creating conditions for health and equity and the civic infrastructure

and resources that support youth participation and leadership in change efforts.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity**

### **[Obesity Atlas 2024](#)**

“World Obesity Day 2024 sees the publication of the sixth World Obesity Atlas. Each Atlas has reported estimates for national obesity prevalence levels and trends, and each has also focused on a theme: these include the rise in childhood obesity, the likelihood of meeting global targets, the impact of obesity on COVID-19 risk, and the economic impact of overweight and obesity. This year the theme is “Obesity and...” the diseases it drives, with specific focus on obesity as a preventable cause of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).” *Source: World Obesity*

### **[Exploring the Science on Measures of Body Composition, Body Fat Distribution, and Obesity](#)**

“The National Academies Roundtable on Obesity Solutions hosted a public workshop series in April and June 2023 that explored the current science on measures of body composition and body fat distribution. Discussions focused on the strengths and limitations, and clinical and anthropological perspectives of body mass index (BMI) as a measure of adiposity and health. Presentations also shed light on the connection between misinformation and bias and stigma, as well as challenged current communication strategies to improve messaging about obesity.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[Use of Meta-Analyses in Nutrition Research and Policy](#)**

“The Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a virtual workshop series that gathered researchers, government officials, and other global leaders in nutrition research and policy. The event, sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), carefully considered meta-analysis methodologies that could in turn be used to advance nutrition research, develop policy, and inform regulatory decision-making.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[A rapid overview of systematic reviews on the effects of coconut oil intake compared with intake of other vegetable oils on mortality and cardiovascular health in children and adults](#)**

“Following the release of the guidelines on saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake in July 2023, WHO is currently developing guidelines on tropical oils. While Member States await the guidelines on tropical oils, there is a need for evidence for interim policy dialogues and guidance. The objective of this review is to rapidly identify and summarize existing evidence from published systematic reviews on the relationships between coconut oil intake and mortality or cardiovascular health in children and adults, and to assess the methodological quality of these systematic reviews.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### **[A rapid overview of systematic reviews on the effects of palm oil intake compared with intake of other vegetable oils on mortality and cardiovascular health in children and adults](#)**

“Following the release of the guidelines on saturated fatty acid and trans-fatty acid intake in July 2023, WHO is currently developing guidelines on tropical oils. While Member States await the guidelines on tropical oils, there is a need for evidence for interim policy dialogues and guidance.

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*Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

### **[Achieving well-being: a global framework for integrating well-being into public health utilizing a health promotion approach](#)**

“Effective implementation of these strategic directions should constitute part of a national governance system based on a ‘whole-of-government’ and ‘whole-of-society’ approach. The Framework is based on close collaboration between sectors outside of health and with communities to promote and protect health. It serves as a guide for stakeholders to engage in a coherent and coordinated manner around a common purpose: promoting the health of people and planet in a sustainable and equitable manner. There are complementarities with the work on social determinants of health and equity, on primary health care and OneHealth among others. And is aligned with several WHO health promotion activities, including promoting physical activity, the Tobacco Free initiative and less consumption of alcohol.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### **[Psychological interventions implementation manual: integrating evidence-based psychological interventions into existing services](#)**

“This manual provides managers and others responsible for planning and delivering services with practical guidance on how to implement manualized psychological interventions for adults, adolescents and children. It covers the five key implementation steps: make an implementation plan; adapt for context; prepare the workforce; identify, assess and support potential beneficiaries; and monitor and evaluate the service.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Alcohol Use**

### **[Gender-responsive approaches to the acceptability, availability and affordability of alcohol](#)**

“Relatively little evidence has examined the different effects of population-level alcohol control policies on different genders, and even less has addressed how gender intersects with socioeconomic status, age, ethnicity, and other factors. Experiences from countries illustrate gendered approaches being used by the alcohol industry (Brazil and the United States) and the innovative ways that governments and civil society organizations are tackling the gendered effects of alcohol consumption. This includes promoting employment outside the alcohol industry (United Republic of Tanzania), developing gender-specific supports for alcohol consumption (Pakistan and Scotland), mobilizing civil society to enforce marketing bans (Sri Lanka) and creating culturally sensitive and culturally embedded policies (Aotearoa New Zealand). There is a clear need for policy-relevant research that supports an increased understanding of what works for gender-responsive approaches to reduce the harm caused by alcohol consumption.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## Long-Term Conditions

### [The role of purchasing arrangements for quality chronic care: a scoping review](#)

“This paper explores the role of purchasing arrangements in improving the quality of chronic disease care. Specifically, the paper provides an overview and summary of the types of payment methods that have been used, summarizes evidence of their effectiveness in improving the quality of chronic care and assesses the enablers and barriers to the implementation of purchasing reforms. For that matter, a scoping review of the peer-reviewed literature was conducted, focusing on payment methods that seek to improve the quality of chronic disease care published.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### [The Economic Burden of Long Covid in the UK](#)

“With a growing evidence base revealing the impact of Long Covid on health and livelihoods, and long-term uncertainty over healthcare funding commitments, there are questions about the long-term economic implications for wider UK society. Cambridge Econometrics’ new report draws on the latest available evidence to examine the future impacts of Long Covid to 2030, using our macroeconomic model E3ME. The report considers trends such as future prevalence, effects on the ability to work and the costs of Long Covid treatment, and is one of the first macroeconomic impact assessments of Long Covid as a long-term condition with wider societal effects.” *Source: Cambridge Econometrics*

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## Research & Technology

### [Public trust in science-for-policy-making](#)

“Clearly, scientific knowledge – understood in the broad sense to capture new knowledge produced across all disciplines – is one of many forms of knowledge and information that need to inform policy-making and debate. But such knowledge is crucial in guiding decisions, especially in areas of complexity and risk. Public interest and trust in science-for-policy is therefore vital for the health of public policy debate. Where science is a key factor in policy-making, the evidence it generates can help foster better deliberation on policy. Where publics recognise the value of such science in policy-making, they will expect science to play a more central role, making the rigorous use of science key to the accountability of public policy.” *Source: British Academy*

### [Data disquiet: concerns about the governance of data for Generative AI](#)

“The growing popularity of large language models (LLMs) has raised concerns about their accuracy. These chatbots can be used to provide information, but it may be tainted by errors or made-up or false information (hallucinations) caused by problematic data sets or incorrect assumptions made by the model. The questionable results produced by chatbots has led to growing disquiet among users, developers and policy makers. The author argues that policy makers need to develop a systemic approach to address these concerns. The current piecemeal approach does not reflect the complexity of LLMs or the magnitude of the data upon which they are based, therefore, the author

recommends incentivizing greater transparency and accountability around data-set development.”  
*Source: Centre for International Governance Innovation*

### **Using AI in the workplace**

“AI can bring significant benefits to the workplace. In the OECD AI surveys of employers and workers, four in five workers say that AI improved their performance at work and three in five say that it increased their enjoyment of work. But the benefits of AI depend on addressing the associated risks. Taking the effect of AI into account, occupations at highest risk of automation account for about 27% of employment in OECD countries. Workers also express concerns around increased work intensity, the collection and use of data, and increasing inequality. To support the adoption of trustworthy AI in the workplace, this policy paper identifies the main risks that need to be addressed when using AI in workplace. It identifies the main policy gaps and offers possible policy avenues specific to labour markets.” *Source: OECD*

### **Imagining futures of 3D bioprinting**

“This report presents the outcomes of a foresight project led by the Emerging Technologies, Research Prioritisation and Support unit and the Blood and Other Products of Human Origin team at the World Health Organization (WHO) on 3D bioprinting and global health. The project was conducted between August and November 2023. 3D bioprinting could be used to meet crucial public health challenges, such as the demand for repair or replacement of human organs and tissues. The foreseen applications of the technology include research, training and various medical uses. Outstanding issues include quality, safety, efficacy, equity of access and ethics, and appropriate regulations and governance should be considered to address those issues efficiently.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### **Protecting cognition: background paper on human rights and neurotechnology**

“Neurotechnologies are devices and procedures which can access, monitor, record or manipulate brain data. The technology is either non-implantable (in a wearable form) or implantable via medical procedure. The Australian Human Rights Commission is focusing on the rapid development of neurotechnology and how it may challenge human rights. The Commission's research is aimed at considering, and highlighting, the human rights risks of neurotechnologies to understand where safeguards are needed most to ensure ethical development and deployment.” *Source: Australian Human Rights Commission*

### **Strategy for optimizing national routine health information systems: strengthening routine health information systems to deliver primary health care and universal health coverage**

“The Strategy for optimising national RHIS is part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) SCORE (Survey, Count, Optimize, Review, Enable) for Health Data Technical Package to strengthen country health data systems and capacity to generate and use the information for health service management and monitoring of national and global targets. This strategy sets out to optimize RHIS and outlines a vision, supported by strategic goals, guiding principles, specific objectives and key interventions to improve health data collection, reporting, analyses and use at national, subnational (all levels below the national level including and not limited to public, private, nongovernmental) and community levels.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### [The role of artificial intelligence in sexual and reproductive health and rights](#)

“This technical brief provides an overview of the landscape surrounding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and highlights the related risks, implications and policy considerations. Considering the rapidly evolving nature of AI, this brief seeks to provide clarity in understanding how AI is being applied in SRHR and flag key issues to ensure AI is used effectively, inclusively and responsibly.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## **Child & Youth Wellbeing**

### [The influence of peer relationships in the middle years on mental health](#)

“This resource is based on a rapid evidence review of the research evidence on peer relationships and mental health among young people aged 8–14 years. This review adopted a strengths-based approach and focused on peer relationships in general, with a particular focus on positive and supportive peer relationships. It did not explore bullying and peer victimisation.” *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

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## **Health of Older People**

### [Translating policy into practice by engaging older persons and their carers as co-researchers](#)

“While there is considerable evidence around older persons and participatory research, little guidance exists for researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers around engaging older persons and their carers in participatory health research.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

### [Enhancing Care for Older Adults in Canada and Down Under](#)

“Although located on opposite sides of the world, Canada and Australia share many demographic similarities and comparable challenges in meeting the growing demands for long-term care (LTC) services from their ageing populations with increasingly complex needs. Discover the insights shaping the future of ageing with the Ageing Beyond Borders Series. In this report, the NIA identifies several opportunities to improve the organization, governance, and delivery of LTC services in both Canada and Australia.” *Source: National Institute on Ageing (Canada)*

### [Supporting People Living with Frailty](#)

“This briefing highlights the benefits of supporting people with frailty in the community at every stage of the frailty care pathway, while considering the risks to be managed. It shares examples of good practice, and explores some of the barriers to further progress, looking at what can be done to address these and ensure people with frailty receive the right care at the right time in the right place.” *Source: NHS Providers (UK)*

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## **Cancer**

### [Addressing Treatment Resistance in the Development of Cancer Immune Modulator Therapeutics](#)



“The use of immune modulator therapeutics, a type of immunotherapy enhancing the body immune system response to cancer, was perceived as the beginning of a new era in cancer care. While still important and frequently used, some of these therapeutics produce uneven response rates, disease resistance, and serious side effects. The National Academies National Cancer Policy Forum, in collaboration with the Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation, hosted a public workshop to discuss challenges related to immunotherapy treatment resistance, as well as potential policy opportunities to improve the development of immunotherapies for cancer treatment.”

*Source: National Academies Press*

### [Reimagining rehabilitation for adults with brain tumours: a roadmap](#)

“Costello Medical, in collaboration with Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission, hosted the Reimagining Rehabilitation for Adults with Brain Tumours roundtable to discuss current challenges associated with the provision of brain tumour rehabilitation in the UK, and identify potential solutions and recommendations for action.” *Source: Costello Medical (UK)*

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## Therapeutics

### [Medication without harm: Policy brief](#)

“The main objective of this policy brief is to support successful implementation of the third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm, and to advocate for prioritizing medication safety in health care. It will also support implementation of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030, on policies relating to eliminating avoidable harm in health care and ensuring the safety of clinical processes. Solutions that can be implemented in countries are proposed under four domains: the patient and the public; health and care workers; medicines as products; and systems and practices of medication within the three action areas: high-risk situations, polypharmacy and transitions of care.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### [Global burden of preventable medication-related harm in health care: a systematic review](#)

“Medication-related harm is considered preventable if it occurs as a result of an identifiable, modifiable cause and its recurrence can be avoided by appropriate adaptation to a process or adherence to guidelines. Understanding the prevalence, nature and severity of preventable medication-related harm is critical for setting targets for clinically relevant, implementable improvements in patient safety. This report presents an updated systematic review and meta-analysis of studies of the prevalence, nature and severity of preventable medication-related harm in the international literature.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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## Primary Care

### [Implementing the Primary Health Care Approach: a Primer](#)

“Primary health care (PHC) has values – around treating people close to home, continuity and coordination. It stands as the principal interface between the health system and communities – the locus where the formalized system meshes with people’s lives. More than that, primary health care

can shape and reshape health systems to make them more accessible, more integrated and more sustainable. Despite the lessons of the pandemic, the efficiency PHC offers, and the potential it has to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, it continues to grapple with insufficient resources. This Primer or policy textbook was produced by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies with the WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care. Dozens of experts have come together to support policy-makers in addressing the challenges. It consolidates the global evidence on implementation and is a guide on the “how” of PHC, combining, as it does, best practices, and the tacit knowledge that countries have generated, with more formal research and analysis.” *Source: European Observatory*

### [Rethinking access to general practice: it’s not all about supply](#)

“This long read is the first in a series of outputs from a collaboration between the Health Foundation and researchers at The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute. The project draws on the candidacy framework to inform a more holistic understanding of general practice access issues.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

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## Climate Change

### [Communicating on climate change and health: Toolkit for health professionals](#)

“While climate change is a big threat to health, implementing solutions to address climate change presents a huge opportunity to promote better health and protect people from climate-sensitive diseases. Communicating the health risks of climate change and the health benefits of climate solutions is both necessary and helpful. Health professionals are well-placed to play a unique role in helping their communities understand climate change, protect themselves, and realize the health benefits of climate solutions. This toolkit aims to help health professionals effectively communicate about climate change and health.” *Source: World Health Organization*

### [State of the Global Climate 2023](#)

“The State of the Global Climate 2023 report shows that records were once again broken, and in some cases smashed, for greenhouse gas levels, surface temperatures, ocean heat and acidification, sea level rise, Antarctic sea ice cover and glacier retreat. Heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires, and rapidly intensifying tropical cyclones caused misery and mayhem, upending everyday life for millions and inflicting many billions of dollars in economic losses.” *Source: World Meteorological Organization*

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