



Ministry of Health Library

Knowledge for health

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

Issue 21, 2015, May

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 hone in on their key areas of interest. Email library@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

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Integration, Collaboration & Systems

[Inter-Organizational Networks: A Review of the Literature to Inform Practice](#)

"This review of the literature, undertaken in a partnership between academics and practitioners, on the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of inter-organizational networks is primarily meant to be a resource document for network practitioners—leaders, managers, participants and facilitators. The goal of the review was to bring forward and discuss evidence that would be of practical value to people managing or working in inter-organizational networks." *Source: IBM Center for the Business of Government*

[Joint review of investment in voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in health and care sector](#)

“The Department of Health, Public Health England, NHS England and representatives of the voluntary sector are working together to review how government invests in the voluntary sector in health and care. This interim report outlines the findings of the review so far and highlights the challenges that the voluntary sector has experienced, as well as the potential benefits and value that collaboration could bring to the health and care sector.” *Source: Voluntary Sector Health and Care*

[Efficiency in Health](#)

“Good health is central to human wellbeing, economic progress and a prosperous society. Reflecting this, the efficiency of Australia’s health care system is an important area of government policy. In this paper, the Commission has identified and assessed opportunities to improve the operation of Australia’s health care system.” *Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission*

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Cancer & Palliative Care

[Changing the conversation: Care and support for people with a terminal illness now and in the future](#)

“Policy makers, health and social care professionals, service planners and communities must talk honestly about what sort of care and support we want to give people affected by terminal illness when their needs are becoming more complex, are often being unmet and are set to grow in number.” *Source: Marie Curie*

[Equity in the Provision of Palliative Care in the UK: Review of Evidence](#)

“A team from the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) was commissioned by Marie Curie to explore the evidence on equity in palliative care and to consider the economic implications of extending palliative care to those currently under-served.” *Source: Marie Curie*

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Public & Community Health

[Community Health Needs Assessments— Aligning the Interests of Public Health and the Health Care Delivery System to Improve Population Health](#)

“Recognizing the challenges of improving health outcomes depends on a complex set of factors, many beyond the control of the health care system, a recent report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) stresses the importance of population health measurement to ensure accountability to improve the quality of health care as well as population health outcomes.” *Source: Institute of Medicine*

[Assessing the Use of Agent-Based Models for Tobacco Regulation](#)

“Assessing the Use of Agent-Based Models for Tobacco Regulation describes the complex tobacco environment; discusses the usefulness of agent-based models to inform tobacco policy and regulation; presents an evaluation framework for policy-relevant agent-based

models; examines the role and type of data needed to develop agent-based models for tobacco regulation; provides an assessment of the agent-based model developed for FDA; and offers strategies for using agent-based models to inform decision making in the future.”
*Source: National Academies Press *sign up for free account to download*

[Landscapes of Helping: Kindliness in Neighbourhoods and Communities](#)

“Increasing geographical mobility, economic change and the rise of an individualist culture in the UK have contributed to the loosening of close ties in communities. Communities need to evolve, to reconnect, so that people cultivate the ‘background hum’ of sociability that has been associated with neighbourliness.” *Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation*

[Better Health Through Equity: Case Studies in Reframing Public Health Work](#)

This report “highlights state and local efforts from health agencies and one Tribal Nation across Colorado, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin to address the root causes of health inequities. Those root causes include racism and unequal distribution and access to resources such as a living wage, health care and quality education and housing. The report features the stories of the health agencies as they shifted their thinking and their work from focusing on health disparities to advancing health equity.” *Source: American Public Health Association*

[Healthy, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities After Disasters: Strategies, Opportunities, and Planning for Recovery](#)

“Healthy, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities After Disasters calls for actions at multiple levels to facilitate recovery strategies that optimize community health. With a shared healthy community vision, strategic planning that prioritizes health, and coordinated implementation, disaster recovery can result in a communities that are healthier, more livable places for current and future generations to grow and thrive - communities that are better prepared for future adversities.” *Source: National Academies Press *sign up for free account to download*

[Reducing the impact of alcohol on family violence](#)

“This What works paper is based on that review and summarises what we know about the link between alcohol and family violence – specifically intimate partner violence and child maltreatment. We also present what we know about interventions and strategies to reduce alcohol-related family violence. The review examined both international and New Zealand research.” *Source: Social Policy Research and Evaluation Unit*

[Toolkit on mapping legal, health and social services responses to child maltreatment](#)

“This toolkit provides academics and decision-makers with strategies for conducting national or regional studies of the incidence of and agency response to child maltreatment. These studies are developed based on the collection of administrative data or through surveys of professionals.” *Source: WHO*

[Economic cost of the health impact of air pollution in Europe](#)

“This study reports on the economic cost of the public health impacts of ambient and household air pollution, with particular reference to the countries of the WHO European Region.” *Source: WHO*

[Building Health Workforce Capacity Through Community-Based Health Professional Education: Workshop Summary](#)

“In presenting a variety of examples that range from student community service to computer modeling, the workshop aimed to stimulate discussions about how educators might better integrate education with practice in communities. Building Health Workforce Capacity Through Community-Based Health Professional Education summarizes the presentations and discussion of this event.” *Source: National Academies Press* *sign up for free account

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Primary Care

[Patient access to general practice: ideas and challenges from the front line](#)

“Across the UK, GP practices are pioneering new approaches to providing patients with access to their services, despite the huge financial and workload pressures facing general practice. This paper explores some of the initiatives being tested and looks at what solutions and challenges are emerging.” *Source: Royal College of General Practitioners*

[Do higher primary care practice performance scores predict lower rates of emergency admissions for persons with serious mental illness? An analysis of secondary panel data](#)

“Serious mental illness (SMI) such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder can have a devastating impact. General practitioners (GPs) provide both mental and physical care for people with SMIs. If GPs provide high-quality care it is possible that their patients with a SMI, in addition to experiencing improvements in the health and well-being, will have fewer unplanned hospital admissions (for mental and physical health problems) and, if they are admitted, they may have shorter lengths of stay (LOSs) as they can be discharged sooner.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research*

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Medicines & Therapeutics

[Combating Antibiotic Resistance: Policies To Promote Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs](#)

“SHAs are critical to building important partnerships to address AMR and stewardship and to implementing stewardship activities across the continuum of care. This report describes current state activities and presents a range of options for engagement, giving health agencies at all levels of capacity opportunities to develop or enhance stewardship policies and activities.” *Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials*

[Worldwide country situation analysis: response to antimicrobial resistance](#)

This report "provides an analysis, by region and globally, of the initiatives under way to address antimicrobial resistance and identifies areas in which more work is needed." *Source: WHO*

[Working together to help patients make the most of medicines](#)

“Members of the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society gathered in London to discuss how the two professions could work together to help patients make the

most of medicines. This report summarises drivers for improving patient care, reasons for patients not making the most of medicines and how the two professions can work together by overcoming barriers and sharing good practice.” *Source: Royal Pharmaceutical Society*

[Developing and Strengthening the Global Supply Chain for Second-Line Drugs for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis: Workshop Summary](#)

“To effectively treat patients diagnosed with drug-resistant (DR) tuberculosis (TB) and protect the population from further transmission of this infectious disease, an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured (QA), second-line anti-TB drugs (SLDs) is necessary... This public workshop explored innovative solutions to the problem of how to get the right SLDs for MDR TB to people who critically need them. More specifically, the workshop examined current problems and potential opportunities for coordinated international efforts to ensure that a reliable and affordable supply of high-quality SLDs is available.” *Source: Institute of Medicine*
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Nutrition, Physical Activity & Obesity

[Using price policies to promote healthier diets](#)

“This publication provides information on the use of price policies to promote healthy diets and explores policy developments from around the WHO European Region. It examines the economic theory underpinning the use of subsidies and taxation and explores the currently available evidence.” *Source: WHO*

[Examining a Developmental Approach to Childhood Obesity: The Fetal and Early Childhood Years—Workshop in Brief](#)

“The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Food and Nutrition Board and the IOM and the National Research Council Board on Children, Youth, and Families convened a workshop in Washington, DC, to explore the body of evolving science that examines the nexus of biology, interaction between biology and environment, and developmental stage on risk for childhood obesity. The workshop focused on the prenatal period, infancy, and early childhood and evidence from animal and human studies.” *Source: Institute of Medicine* **sign up for free account to download*

[Interim Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity](#)

“In this report the Commission identifies key issues including: the importance of a life-course approach to simultaneously address the risk factors for childhood obesity from before conception, through pregnancy and during childhood, as well as the obesogenic environment in which children and adolescents grow and develop. In addition, it outlines potential policy options that governments could consider to reduce the intake of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages, increase the intake of healthy foods and promote physical activity in children and adolescents.” *Source: WHO*

[Influencing children's health: critical windows for intervention](#)

“With almost one in four Australian children overweight or obese and one in three expected to be by 2025, Influencing children's health: critical windows for intervention looks at the key moments for developing healthy habits in children and adolescents.” *Source: Victoria Health*

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Engagement

[Engaging Patients in Communication at Transitions of Care](#)

“The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) appointed researchers from Deakin and Griffith Universities to conduct an integrative review and report on tools and strategies that facilitate the engagement of patients in communication at transitions of acute care.” *Source: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care*

[Partnering to improve quality and safety: a framework for working with patient and family advisors](#)

“This guide supplements the existing literature on patient and family engagement by focusing on partnering with patient and family advisors on advisory councils, hospital committees and collaborative projects to improve quality and safety.” *Source: Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence*

[Head, hands and heart: asset-based approaches in health care](#)

“The report sets out some of the opportunities and challenges in adopting asset-based approaches for improving health and wellbeing. It explores some of the key principles for developing health assets and the evidence and mechanisms of impact on health outcomes of asset-based projects in the UK.” *Source: Health Foundation*

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Diabetes

[PHCRIS Policy Issue Review: The role of primary health care in primary and secondary prevention of diabetes](#)

“The aim of this Policy Issue Review is to examine diabetes programmes reporting outcome data and used in general practice settings to identify and proactively manage individuals at high risk for developing diabetes; or where diabetes is diagnosed, at risk for development of, or deterioration in, diabetes-related complications.” *Source: Primary Health Care and Research Information Service*

[A Strategic Framework for action: Consultation paper for the development of the Australian National Diabetes Strategy](#)

“This document has been written by the National Diabetes Strategy Advisory Group (NDSAG) to assist in the development of the National Diabetes Strategy. The document is provided by the NDSAG to support the Government in considering the national response to diabetes and developing the resulting strategy. It represents the collective expertise of the NDSAG and identifies areas for action to improve diabetes prevention and care. The document is released for public consultation to seek submissions from individuals, families, communities, health care services and industry. Consultation feedback, together with the NDSAG advice will inform the development of the draft National Diabetes Strategy.: *Source: Australian Government Department of Health*

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Nursing

[A guide to economic assessment in nursing](#)

“This is the first in a series of four continuing professional development articles that explain some of the principles of economic assessment and describe the most commonly cited approaches; the fifth article discusses costs and benefits. The series aims to enable readers to critically examine economic assessments in the context of nurse-led service innovation.”

Source: Royal College of Nursing

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Mental Health

[Future in mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing](#)

“The Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce was established in September 2014 to consider ways to make it easier for children, young people, parents and carers to access help and support when needed and to improve how children and young people’s mental health services are organised, commissioned and provided.” *Source: NHS England*

[What Works: Positive experiences in open employment of mental health service users 2015](#)

“Workplaces that include and support people with experience of mental illness have multiple benefits for individuals, organisations and society in general. This report identifies critical factors that enable, and more particularly sustain, open employment of mental health service users, from both the employees’ and the employers’ perspectives.” *Source: New Zealand Mental Health Foundation*

[Integrating mental health services in primary health care](#)

“Mental disorders are highly prevalent in Australia. Comorbidities (both physical and mental) are common and many people with mental health conditions also face a range of non-medical issues. Most people requiring mental health care are supported in primary health care (PHC), but some also need specialist care. Ideally, in multidisciplinary, collaborative care approaches, mental health services need to integrate with partners across PHC and broader areas of the health system, but also develop close ties to non-health sectors, including housing, employment and education.” *Primary Health Care Research and Information Service*

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Health Information, Research & Technology

[Data for Health: Learning What Works](#)

“The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) initiative, Data for Health, explores how data can be collected, shared, protected, and translated in ways that are useful to individuals, organizations and communities. With the opportunity of exponentially increasing amounts of data about almost every aspect of our lives, we face the challenge of how to

effectively harness it, share it, and use it to guide public policy, as well as help efforts aimed at improving health.” *Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*

[Using clinical practice variations as a method for commissioners and clinicians to identify and prioritise opportunities for disinvestment in health care: a cross-sectional study, systematic reviews and qualitative study](#)

“NHS financial constraints will keep disinvestment high on CCGs’ agendas. Key challenges include the lack of methods to identify technologies with uncertain cost-effectiveness, lack of evidence on the efficiency of existing health technologies and political, clinical and social challenges to changing established practice” *Source: National Institute for Health Research*

[Uses and abuses of performance data in healthcare](#)

“Hopes of improving healthcare through better measurement and the use of information in healthcare management are being undermined by weaknesses in the generation and use of data and metrics. This report outlines five steps that could address these problems.” *Source: Dr Foster*

[Using Health Information Technology to Support Quality Improvement in Primary Care](#)

“Revitalizing the primary care system in the United States is critically important to achieving high quality, accessible, and efficient health care for all Americans. The effective use of health information technology (IT) by primary care practices to facilitate quality improvement (QI) can help practices improve their ability to deliver high quality care and improve patient outcomes.” *Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*

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Health of Older People

[Cognitive Aging: Progress in Understanding and Opportunities for Action](#)

“This Institute of Medicine (IOM) study examines cognitive aging, a natural process associated with advancing years. The IOM committee was charged with assessing the public health dimensions of cognitive aging with an emphasis on definitions and terminology, epidemiology and surveillance, prevention and intervention, education of health professionals, and public awareness and education.” *Source: Institute of Medicine *sign up for free account to download*

[Remember me: Improving quality of life for people with dementia and their carers through impact investment](#)

“This paper explores the role for impact investment in developing and scaling products to improve the quality of life of people with dementia. We have prioritised dementia as a key area for our fund as we believe it is one of the most significant challenges facing an ageing UK society. We believe that innovation is needed to provide a greater range of products to people with dementia and their carers. This paper examines the role and opportunity for impact investing to develop and grow these innovative products.” *Source: NESTA*

[A shared journey: insights from the Banksia Younger Onset Dementia Support Group](#)

“The study of a pilot program to support people with younger onset dementia in the Frankston area of outer Melbourne has found that the participants valued being involved in

initiating and organising activities that they find meaningful and enjoyable, and having the chance to share their experience with others. The report poses some questions for the further development of services.” *Source: Brotherhood of St Laurence*

PHC and integration with aged care services: Challenges and approaches in Australia

“Recent Australian health reforms have highlighted the need for effective primary health care (PHC) in providing coordinated, person-centred care to keep individuals out of hospital. In the context of an ageing population and rising rates of chronic and complex conditions, there is growing demand for integrated health services to support the health, wellbeing and ongoing care of older people.” *Source: Primary Health Care Research and Information Service*

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