



Ministry of Health Library

# Grey Matter

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

Issue 69, 2019, 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 identify their key areas of interest. Email [library@moh.govt.nz](mailto:library@moh.govt.nz) to subscribe.

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### Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

#### [Integrating Health Care and Social Services for People with Serious Illness: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

"In an effort to better understand and facilitate discussions about the challenges and opportunities related to integrating health care and social services for people with serious illness, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a full-day

public workshop on July 19, 2018 in Washington, DC. The workshop featured a broad range of experts and stakeholders including researchers, policy analysts, patient and family caregiving advocates, and representatives of federal agencies. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[The transition to integrated care: Population health management in England](#)**

“Population health brings together an understanding of population need (public health) through big data, patient engagement and health and care delivery. Population health management (PHM) embraces the quadruple aims of health care, which are to: improve the health of the population, the experience of care, the health and wellbeing of the workforce, and reduce the overall costs of care. While population health is not a new concept, attempts to tackle it have been fragmented, with health policy still largely focused on treatment rather than actions to address the wider social determinants of health.” *Source: Deloitte (UK)*

### **[Considering “Single Payer” Proposals in the U.S.: Lessons from Abroad](#)**

“Countries differ in the extent to which financial and regulatory control over the system rests with the national government or is devolved to regional or local government. They also differ in scope of benefits and degree of cost-sharing required at the point of service. Finally, while virtually all systems incorporate private insurance, its importance varies considerably from country to country.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

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## **Child & Youth Wellbeing**

### **[Health visiting: Giving children the best start in life](#)**

“The health visiting service plays a crucial role in giving children the best start in life and councils have embraced the opportunity to make a difference in this key development stage. The impact of this early support cannot be underestimated. It builds resilience, encourages healthy lifestyles and aids social and emotional development.” *Source: Local Government Association (UK)*

### **[Achieving Behavioral Health Equity for Children, Families, and Communities: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)**

“In November 2017, the Forum on Promoting Children's Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health, in collaboration with the Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity, convened a workshop on promoting children's behavioral health equity. The workshop used a socio-ecological developmental model to explore health equity of children and families, including those with complex needs and chronic conditions... This publication summarizes the presentations and discussion of the event.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[The Effects Of Early Care And Education On Children’s Health](#)**

“While ECE (Early Care and Education) programs are not necessarily designed to improve child health, a growing body of research indicates that they may lead to short- and long-term improvements in health-related outcomes. This brief highlights such outcomes of ECE. It focuses specifically on center-based care, as the research base on the health effects of nonparental home-based care is still sparse.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

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

### **[Paying the price: new evidence on the link between price promotions, purchasing of less healthy food and drink, and overweight and obesity in Great Britain](#)**

“The study, which looked at the habits of more than 16,000 British households, found that people whose shopping baskets contained around 40-80 per cent of goods on special offer have more than a 50 per cent increased chance of being obese.” *Source: Cancer Research UK*

### **[Policies for tackling obesity and creating healthier food environments: 2019 progress update Australian governments](#)**

“Unhealthy diets and obesity are leading contributors to poor health in Australia. Addressing obesity and improving population diets requires a comprehensive government response at Commonwealth and State/Territory levels. In 2017, a Food Policy Index was developed for Australia to assess the food and diet-related policies that were in place in each jurisdiction, and identify recommended actions for each government based on international best practice.” *Source: Deakin University (Australia)*

### **[Sustainable Diets, Food, and Nutrition: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)**

“On August 1 and 2, 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a public workshop in Washington, DC, on sustainable diets, food, and nutrition. Workshop participants reviewed current and emerging knowledge on the concept of sustainable diets within the field of food and nutrition; explored sustainable diets and relevant impacts for cross-sector partnerships, policy, and research; and discussed how sustainable diets influence dietary patterns, the food system, and population and public health. This publication briefly summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Health Workforce**

### **[Staffing on wards](#)**

“The nature of patient needs and ward activity is changing. Inpatients tend to be more ill than they used to be, many with complex needs often arising from multiple long-term conditions. At the same time, hospitals face the challenges of a shortage and high turnover of registered nurses. This review presents recent evidence from National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded research, including studies on the number of staff needed, the support workforce and the organisation of care on the wards. While few research studies have explored the similar pressures that occur in community and social care, the learning from hospitals may be useful to decision makers in these areas.” *Source: National Institute for Health Research (UK)*

### **[Workforce stress and the supportive organisation: a framework for improvement through reflection, curiosity and change](#)**

“The focus of this framework is on taking the time and making the space to carefully consider the elements of the organisational experience that can impact on staff psychological wellbeing.” *Source: NHS National Workforce Skills Development Unit (UK)*

### **[A Design Thinking, Systems Approach to Well-Being Within Education and Practice: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)**

“The mental health and well-being of health professionals is a topic that is broad, exceptionally relevant, and urgent to address. It is both a local and a global issue, and affects professionals in all stages of their careers. To explore this topic, the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education held a 1.5 day workshop. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[Strengthening the Connection Between Health Professions Education and Practice: Proceedings of a Joint Workshop](#)**

“The workshop participants explored the intersection of health professions education and practice. Both sectors are working toward the same goal of improving the health of patients and populations, without compromising the mental stability and wellbeing of the workforce or its learners. However, while education and practice have the same goal, there is a need for greater alignment between the sectors to more fully realize these desired outcomes. For example, educators, practitioners, and administrators must learn to adapt and respond to the growing role of technology within a wider context, in order to most effectively apply higher education within health systems. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

### **[The Intersection of Behavioral Health, Mental Health, and Health Literacy](#)**

“The purpose of the workshop, which was held on July 11, 2018, in Washington, DC, was to explore issues associated with effective communication with individuals with mental or behavioral health issues and to identify ways in which health literacy approaches can facilitate communication. In particular, the workshop aimed to gain a better understanding of how behavioral health and mental health concerns can adversely affect communications between providers and patients and their families. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### **[A healthy mind in a healthy body](#)**

“Good health is a benefit in many domains, such as work, studies or social relationships. Fostering a sound knowledge on healthy habits and the implications of risk-taking behaviours is a key to shaping societies with healthier lifestyles.” *Source: OECD*

### **[National Recommendations for Depicting Suicide](#)**

“Guidance to help content creators craft stories about survival, hope, and healing—aimed at saving lives and restoring hope.” *Source: National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (USA)*

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## Technology

### [WHO guideline: Recommendations on digital interventions for health system strengthening](#)

“Digital technologies provide concrete opportunities to tackle health system challenges, and thereby offer the potential to enhance the coverage and quality of health practices and services. Digital health interventions may be used, for example, to facilitate targeted communications to individuals in order to generate demand and broaden contact coverage. Digital health interventions may also be targeted to health workers to give them more immediate access to clinical protocols through, for example, decision-support mechanisms or telemedicine consultations with other health workers. The range of ways digital technologies can be used to support the needs of health systems is wide, and these technologies continue to evolve due to the inherently dynamic nature of the field.” *Source: WHO*

### [Harnessing the full spectrum of digital data to support the delivery of personalised services across the health care continuum: white paper](#)

“The purpose of this paper is to describe the data sources that can be used to improve and manage health across the health care continuum, in particular how genomic data and data from consumer-facing applications can be brought together with the event-based data that are routinely collected in clinical settings. Additionally, the paper provides an overview of technologies now available to leverage these data sources to inform the delivery of health care and provides examples of how these data sources and technologies have been applied to improve the planning and delivery of health services across the health care continuum. This paper is aimed at both health service planners and researchers working across clinical and public health settings and technologists who have expertise in computer science and engineering who see new opportunities in the digital health sector.” *Source: Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (Australia)*

### [Public sector digital transformation: a quick guide](#)

“Many governments around the world are undertaking digital projects. However, there is debate about the extent to which government initiatives could be characterised as ‘digital transformation’. In broadly chronological order, this Quick Guide provides brief background information on a variety of recent and current initiatives in the Australian federal public sector associated with ‘digital transformation’, as well as links to relevant sources of information.” *Source: Parliamentary Library (Australia)*

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## Equity

### [A blueprint for improving the health and wellbeing of the trans and gender diverse community in NSW](#)

“NSW faces a crisis in addressing the particular health needs of the trans and gender diverse community and the barriers they experience in accessing care on a daily basis. A Blueprint for Improving the Health and Wellbeing of the Trans and Gender Diverse

Community in NSW provides a way forward for government, healthcare providers, NGOs, researchers, healthcare professional associations, educational institutions and other stakeholders in the health sector.” *Source: ACON (Australia)*

### **[Improving access to housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander renal patients with complex care needs](#)**

“This paper recommends that the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments should consider an integrated care package that addresses the broader care needs of renal patients, including housing needs, in partnership with patients, families, Aboriginal health and housing organisations, Aboriginal medical services and other stakeholders.” *Source: Deeble Institute*

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## **Public & Global Health**

### **[Averting the antimicrobial resistance crisis: what are the avenues for policy action for countries in Europe?](#)**

“Countries have been under mounting political pressure either to develop their first AMR NAP (Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan) or revise their current plan in line with international guidance. To aid policymakers, this brief provides a summary of the essential policy areas and priority interventions, endorsed by the World Health Organization/Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations/World Organisation for Animal Health (WHO/FAO/OIE) tripartite, to consider when formulating a national strategy to combat AMR. A selection of specific measures is also provided.” *Source: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*

### **[State of global air/2019: a special report on global exposure to air pollution and its disease burden](#)**

“The State of Global Air report brings into one place the latest information on air quality and health for countries around the globe. It is produced annually by the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation’s Global Burden of Disease project as a source of objective, peer-reviewed air quality data and analysis. Like previous reports, this year’s publication presents information on outdoor and household air pollution and on the health impacts of exposure to air pollution. For the first time, the report also explores how air pollution affects life expectancy.” *Source: Health Effects Institute*

### **[Bedtime reading: inquiry into sleep health awareness in Australia](#)**

“The Committee considered issues related to inadequate sleep and sleep disorders as part of the inquiry. These included: the prevalence and causes of inadequate sleep and sleep disorders, as well as diagnosis, management and treatment options; the links between sleep health and physical and mental health conditions; Impacts of fatigue in the workplace and on the road, as well as how shift work and other workplace practices can effect sleep quality and duration; and Community awareness of sleep health issues, and further research into sleep that may be needed.” *Source: Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia*

### **[Global Health Transitions and Sustainable Solutions](#)**

“On June 13–14, 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a multistakeholder workshop to examine the transitions affecting global health and innovative global health solutions. The goal of bringing these two topics together was to collectively explore models for innovative partnerships and private-sector engagement with the potential to support countries in transition. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

### [The Role of Nonpharmacological Approaches to Pain Management: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“The magnitude and urgency of the twin problems of chronic pain and opioid addiction, combined with the changing landscape of pain management, prompted the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to convene a workshop on December 4–5, 2018, in Washington, DC. The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the current status of nonpharmacological approaches to pain management, gaps, and future directions. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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## **Cancer**

### [Reducing Social Inequalities in Cancer: Evidence and Priorities for Research](#)

“This volume summarizes the current scientific evidence and identifies research priorities needed to decrease social inequalities in cancer. The publication, based on the expert knowledge of more than 70 international scientists from multiple disciplines, undertakes a populations-within-populations approach, highlighting the large variations in cancer incidence, survival, and mortality that exist between countries and, within countries, between social groups. Several factors may lead individuals with low social status to adopt unhealthy behaviors, to be exposed to a wider range and a higher intensity of cancer risk factors, and to have reduced access to health-care services, compared with their fellow citizens.” *Source: International Agency for Research on Cancer*

### [Advances in Cancer Treatment](#)

“The pace of innovation in cancer treatment is rapid, with promising developments for patients in terms of survival and quality of life. Research in the fields of immunotherapy and radiotherapy has shown positive results in treating some cancers where established treatments are not effective. This POSTnote gives an overview of recent advances, the potential benefits and risks, and considers the opportunities and challenges of using new technologies in the NHS.” *Source: Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (UK)*

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## **Health of Older People**

### [This is our story: A qualitative research report on living with dementia](#)

“This is Our Lives is a qualitative study that explores the diverse lives and experiences of 49 people living with dementia. It also explores the challenges they face doing this and the ways that they report that their lives could be better. Issues addressed include diagnosis,

the importance of independence the importance of care partners, the challenges of living positively and what societal changes could make their lives easier.” Source: *Alzheimers New Zealand and Litmus Research*

### **Training programme to improve communication between staff and patients with dementia in hospital shows promise**

“Communication with people with dementia can be challenging for healthcare professionals. A new two-day training programme shows potential to help professionals become more confident in managing difficult situations on the ward. After analysis of 41 videoed exchanges between 26 healthcare professionals and 26 people with dementia in acute hospitals, researchers identified particular challenges. These included requests for action, such as asking them to take a drink or get out of bed, and at the end of an encounter when people failed to recognise cues that the conversation had ended. The researchers also identified features of successful encounters.” Source: *National Institute for Health Research (UK)*

### **Medication Overload: How the drive to prescribe is harming older Americans**

“The prescribing of multiple medications to individual patients (called “polypharmacy” in the scientific literature) has reached epidemic proportions. More than four in ten older adults take five or more prescription medications a day, an increase of 300 percent over the past two decades. Nearly 20 percent take ten drugs or more.” Source: *Lown Institute*

### **Specialist nursing support for unpaid carers of people with dementia: a mixed-methods feasibility study**

“Unpaid carers are the most valuable resource we have in dementia care, but little is known about how best to support them. Different types of services are available across England. Admiral Nursing is the only specialist nursing dementia service with a focus on supporting carers. [This] research asked: What are the costs and benefits of specialist nursing for carers of people with dementia?” Source: *National Institute for Health Research (UK)*

### **People first, manage what matters...**

“Stories of elderly people who had previously been living independently, or at home with support, being admitted to hospital for a relatively minor problem, but then having to wait a long time to be discharged, during which time their needs have changed, and they are deemed no longer able to return home - are commonplace. They are found in any and every part of the country. It is crucial for the wellbeing of people in hospital, as well as for the safety of others needing urgent acute care, that the flow of people through the system is as efficient as possible.” Source: *Better Care Support Programme (UK)*

### **Improving the quality of life and care of persons living with dementia and their caregivers**

“This panel of 6 experts was assembled at the request of Public Health Agency of Canada. Canada’s aging population and the increasing prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias pose a significant challenge for Canadian families and their caregivers, and more broadly, for the health care system. Recognizing the importance of developing and implementing an effective strategy to address this challenge, the Minister of Health of Canada, through the Public Health Agency of Canada, asked the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) to provide an evidence-informed and authoritative assessment on



the state of knowledge to help advance federal priorities under the National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act." *Source: Canadian Academy of Health Sciences*

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## **Drug & Alcohol Use**

### **[Energy labelling for alcoholic beverages in New Zealand \(phase 1\): Consumer perceptions](#)**

"This qualitative research provides insight into consumers' awareness of, and views around, energy (kilojoules/calories) labelling on alcoholic beverages." *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

### **[Energy labelling for alcoholic beverages in New Zealand \(phase two\): Impact on consumer purchase and consumption](#)**

"This randomised trial reports on the impact of different energy (kilojoules/calories) labels on consumers' likelihood of buying and drinking alcoholic beverages." *Source: Health Promotion Agency*

### **[Stopping The Harm: Decriminalization Of People Who Use Drugs In BC](#)**

"In April 2016, in response to an ongoing, escalating crisis of illegal-drug-related overdose deaths, the BC PHO declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act; a first in BC and Canada. Following this declaration, a multi-sector response was launched by the provincial government and its partners to keep people who use drugs safe from harm. Despite continuous efforts in BC to resolve the overdose crisis, and the declaration of a public health emergency, there has been minimal success in stopping the rising death toll since the crisis started, and additional alternative solutions are warranted immediately. This PHO Special Report examines the criminalization of people who use drugs in BC, Canada, and beyond, and based on existing evidence, offers a single recommendation: decriminalization of people who use drugs in BC." *Source: Provincial Health Officer (BC, Canada)*

### **[Mindframe for Alcohol and Other Drugs](#)**

"Mindframe for Alcohol and Other Drugs is a strategy to support the media and other stakeholders to communicate safely, respectfully and responsibly about alcohol and other drugs (AOD). The project uses research evidence to reduce stigma associated with AOD use, increase help-seeking behaviour in people who may require treatment or support, and minimise harm." *Source: Mindframe (Australia)*

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## **Family Violence**

### **[Ethnic perspectives on family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)**

"This Issues Paper presents the current state of research on family violence in ethnic communities. Summarising evidence from existing scholarship on victims/survivors, it draws attention to emergent issues that are particularly relevant to ethnic communities in New

Zealand where there are gaps in our knowledge of and responses to family violence.”

*Source: New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse*

### **Improving responses to children who experience family violence: when policy reform meets practice**

“With momentous reforms underway to address family violence in Victoria and across Australia, there is an increased acknowledgement that children – once considered the ‘silent victims’ of family violence – are impacted in their own right. Targeted responses that consider and address particular risks to children’s safety are therefore essential. This is reflected in the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the subsequent reform agenda led by the Victorian Government. This Practice Inquiry contributes to an evidence base to support these developments by providing insights from the practitioners who work with women, children and families impacted by family violence.”

*Source: Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand*

### **Housing outcomes after domestic and family violence**

“This study examined the impact of housing and other support services on safety and wellbeing for families experiencing domestic and family violence.” *Source: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute*

### **INSPIRE Handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies for ending violence against children**

“The INSPIRE handbook: action for implementing the seven strategies for ending violence against children explains in detail how to choose and implement interventions that will fit your needs and context. The seven strategy-specific chapters address the Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills. The handbook concludes with a summary of INSPIRE’s implementation and impact indicators, drawn from the companion INSPIRE indicator guidance and results framework.” *Source: WHO*

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