



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 to subscribe.

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[International comparisons of the quality and outcomes of integrated care](#)

“Across OECD countries, two in three people aged over 65 years live with at least one chronic condition often requiring multiple interactions with different providers, making them more susceptible to poor and fragmented care. This has prompted calls for making health systems more people-centred, capable of delivering high-quality integrated care. Despite promising, mostly local-level, experiences, systems remain fragmented, focused on acute care and unsuitable to solve complex needs. Moreover, assessing and comparing the benefits of integrated care remains difficult

given the lack of technically sound, policy-relevant indicators. This report presents the results of the first OECD pilot of a new generation of indicators to support international benchmarking of quality of integrated care. Lessons from the pilot call for further work on: (1) expanding work on indicator development; (2) performing policy analysis to understand cross-country variations on governance models and health financing; (3) upscaling data linkage; and (4) measuring care fragmentation.”

Source: OECD

[Health systems resilience toolkit: a WHO global public health good to support building and strengthening of sustainable health systems resilience in countries with various contexts](#)

“This document is a consolidated, fit-for-purpose technical reference package to support countries in strengthening health systems resilience at national and subnational level from policy and planning, through operational and services delivery, to monitoring and evaluation. The Toolkit may be adapted to varying contexts and will also contribute to the dual agenda of universal health coverage (UHC) and global health security. The Toolkit serves as a compendium of technical resources to support countries in strengthening the resilience of their health systems and provides technical grounding and clarity on the conceptualization and operationalization of health systems resilience.”

Source: World Health Organization

[A toolkit on how to implement social prescribing](#)

“Social prescribing is a means of connecting patients to a range of non-clinical services in the community to improve their health and well-being. It builds on the evidence that addressing social determinants of health such as socioeconomic status, social inclusion, housing, and education is key to improving health outcomes. This toolkit was created to help introduce social prescribing at the community level. It outlines the steps required to introduce a social prescribing scheme and includes sample materials which can be adapted to the local context.”

Source: World Health Organization

[Avoiding hospital readmissions: the models and the role of primary care](#)

“This paper discusses different models of care reported in the literature which have been used to prevent unplanned hospital readmissions, including those models that improve transitional care, as well as virtual wards and telehealth. This brief also discusses the potential role of primary care, specifically general practice, in helping to reduce hospital readmissions.”

Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)

[Establishing intersections between Ontario Health Teams and broader human services](#)

“As Ontario Health Teams mature, they will be held accountable for maintaining and improving the health and well-being of their attributed populations. However, there are many factors beyond healthcare that an individual receives that determine their health. The conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age have a significant effect on their overall well-being. Given the influence of social determinants of health on well-being, some Ontario Health Teams have chosen to partner with organizations that provide broader human services.”

Source: McMaster Health Forum (Canada)

[Identifying how Ontario Health Teams can meet the needs of rurally based patients and community partners in mixed urban-rural and predominantly rural environments](#)

“Providers operating in mixed urban-rural environments and in predominantly rural environments face longstanding challenges in planning for and delivering care. The introduction of Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) offers the potential to alleviate some of these challenges, however, also introduces others. RISE prepared a rapid synthesis and RISE brief on the topic, which were used to inform two citizen panels and a jamboree with key health-system stakeholders from Ontario on the topic. Insights gathered from the panels and the jamboree were incorporated into the final versions of the documents. Learn more in this RISE brief and other products.” *Source: McMaster Health Forum (Canada)*

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Equity

[A Matter of Life and Death: Explaining the Wider Determinants of Health in the UK](#)

“The Health Foundation commissioned FrameWorks to examine how people think about their health, and the health of others, and based on this, recommend how we can frame health communications to tell a more powerful story. A story which increases understanding of the role of the wider determinants of health and builds support for the policies needed to reduce health inequalities and improve health across the country.” *Source: FrameWorks (UK)*

[Ensuring the quality of palliative care in Australia’s prisons](#)

“This brief highlights the significant gap in national data about all elements of palliative care need and provision in prisons, and describes how data collection could be improved through collaboratively designing palliative care data collection strategies, identifying nationally consistent data and health indicators about palliative care in prisons, prioritising new data items about palliative care for collection, maximising use of existing and novel data sources, and providing support for knowledge translation through development of a framework.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

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Disability

[Global Report on Assistive Technology](#)

“The Global Report on Assistive Technology presents a comprehensive dataset and analysis of current assistive technology access, drawing the attention of governments and civil society to the need for, and benefit of, assistive technology, including its return on investment. The Global Report sets out ten recommendations for improving access to assistive technology, which in turn support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusive Universal Health Coverage, and alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Nutrition

[Marketing of breast-milk substitutes: national implementation of the international code, status report 2022](#)

“This report provides updated information on the status of implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS) and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions (collectively referred to as “the Code”) in countries. It presents the legal status of the Code, including the extent to which the provisions of the Code have been incorporated in national legal measures. The report examines how legal measures enacted in the past five years differ from earlier measures. It also identifies provisions specifically pertaining to the digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes (BMS).” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Scope and impact of digital marketing strategies for promoting breastmilk substitutes](#)

“Digital technologies are increasingly used for marketing food products throughout the world. Although the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes specifies that there should be no advertising or other form of promotion of breast-milk substitutes to the general public, the Code does not directly address many of the specific strategies used in digital marketing. In November 2020, the World Health Assembly requested that WHO review current evidence and prepare a report describing how digital marketing strategies are being used for the promotion of breast-milk substitutes. This report examines in greater depth the scope, techniques and impact of digital marketing strategies for the promotion of breast-milk substitutes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Public Health

[Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

“The Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report assesses the impacts of climate change, looking at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels. It also reviews vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change.” *Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

[Understanding the behavioural and social drivers of vaccine uptake WHO position paper](#)

“This is the first position paper to be published by WHO on the behavioural and social drivers (BeSD) of vaccine uptake. It summarizes the development of new tools and indicators to assess the BeSD of vaccine uptake for childhood and COVID-19 vaccination, enabling decision-makers on immunization policy, programme managers, and partners to address under-vaccination through an enhanced understanding of the underlying causes.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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COVID-19

[Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer care in OECD countries](#)

“This paper compiles initial findings from a subset of OECD countries covering the period from March 2020 to August 2021. It illustrates how several of these countries attempted to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on cancer care systems. There have been examples of adapting treatment

guidelines, changing clinical practices and reducing backlogs to minimise negative impacts of the pandemic on cancer patients. Several of the countries also undertook more frequent monitoring and in-depth analysis of cancer care performance. The analyses confirm that strong health information infrastructure is crucial for developing resilient health systems that provide effective, timely and people-centred cancer care.” *Source: OECD*

[Toward a Post-Pandemic World: Lessons from COVID-19 for Now and the Future: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)

“This workshop explored the long-term effects of COVID-19 on health equity, including considerations for mental health and social determinants of health. It also addressed uncertainties during a pandemic, such as trust, communication, and engagement and explored approaches to systematize recovery efforts to improve the ongoing responses and prepare for the next pandemic. Experts discussed possibilities for a post-pandemic world and a response strategy for stakeholders that ensures sustained community partnerships and prioritization of health equity. This Proceedings of a Workshop summarizes the presentations and discussions from the second workshop.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Evaluating COVID-19-Related Surveillance Measures for Decision-Making](#)

“As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to evolve, the types of data available have changed with the identification of new variants, the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, the introduction of new COVID-19 therapeutics, the reopening of the economy, and the relaxing of mitigation measures. Enhanced understanding of these data types can lead to more informed decisions. The latest guidance from the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) highlights new and updated COVID-19 data measures and surveillance strategies that decision makers can use to inform policy decisions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Homelessness during a pandemic: Learning lessons for disaster preparedness in Nova Scotia](#)

“Authored by a team of researchers out of Dalhousie University, University of Toronto and Cape Breton University, this report summarizes a study exploring the homeless sector in Nova Scotia during the COVID-19 pandemic... The report details recommendations from both service stakeholders and those experiencing homelessness.” *Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives*

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Health of Older People

[Supporting informal carers of older people: Policies to leave no carer behind](#)

“Informal carers – family and friends who perform care - are the first line of support for older people. About 60% of older people who receive care at home report receiving only informal care across OECD countries. While informal carers help to contain public costs, those costs are borne elsewhere. Women perform the majority of informal care, posing a barrier to their labour market participation. It is generally impacted when caring over 20 hours per week. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased pressures on carers. Making informal care a choice without constraints requires a comprehensive set of policies. Countries have taken steps, though more could be done. While access to information has improved, counselling and training depends heavily on the voluntary sector and respite typically remains insufficient. About two-thirds of OECD countries provide direct or indirect

cash benefits to informal carers. Nearly two-thirds also mandate paid or unpaid care leave entitlements.” *Source: OECD*

[How community organisations contribute to healthy ageing?](#)

“This report explores the role of community-based organisations in supporting people in later life to achieve the capabilities and outcomes associated with healthy ageing. It focuses on the work of the Leeds Neighbourhood Networks (LNNs), which are community-based schemes that offer a range of activities and services with the aim of addressing the social determinants of health, promoting independence and wellbeing.” *Source: Centre for Ageing Better (UK)*

[Quality of life tools to support measurement of aged care quality](#)

“Despite years of cyclical care reforms for service providers and shifting regulations, aged care services quality and accountability remains a significant concern to both the Government and the Australian public. To break this cycle, it is essential that Australia establish a set of long-term and comprehensive indicators of quality in aged care.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

[Generation Vax: Leveraging intergenerational relations to increase routine vaccination uptake](#)

“Previous research has found that older people are less likely to use social media than younger generations. As evidence suggests that younger people can influence the health behaviour of older relatives offline, [the researchers] set out to test whether social media could be used to engage older people via their younger relatives using a large-scale targeted social media advertising campaign.” *Source: International Longevity Centre (UK)*

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Long-Term Conditions

[Doctor’s orders: Why adherence is critical to improving health outcomes across the life course](#)

“Supporting adherence to existing treatment regimes in people with chronic conditions, and those at risk of developing them, as well as encouraging them to make changes to their lifestyles, offers a substantial reward. It’s time to claim it.” *International Longevity Centre (UK)*

[2019-2021 Stroke FAST Campaign Evaluation - interim report](#)

“This evaluation highlights the long term impact of the successive Stroke F.A.S.T campaigns, run since 2016. The St John Ambulance Service data from 111 calls has demonstrated the impact of consecutive campaigns, with an increase in the number of 111 calls for suspected stroke, and the average number of daily calls has increased over time. This analysis indicates the increase in calls is likely due to the impact of successive national campaigns, rather than an underlying positive trend over time.” *Source: Te Hiringa Hauora Health Promotion Agency*

[The public’s experience of monitoring their blood pressure at home](#)

“People increasingly use remote medical technologies to keep tabs on their health. [The authors] looked at people’s experience monitoring their blood pressure from home to see what NHS services can learn.” *Source: HealthWatch (UK)*

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Child & Youth Wellbeing

[Connecting the Brain to the Rest of the Body: Early Childhood Development and Lifelong Health Are Deeply Intertwined](#)

“This Working Paper examines how developing biological systems in the body interact with each other and adapt to the contexts in which a child is developing—for better or for worse—with lifelong consequences for physical and mental health. It explains in clear language how these systems are affected by adversity early in life, and shows how those adaptations can result in costly, common chronic illnesses.” *Source: Harvard University*

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Mental Health & Addiction

[Stepping Together for Digital Mental Health and Addictions Services](#)

“Stepped Care 2.0© is an approach to delivering mental health and addictions services that helps people access the right care at the right time, from low-intensity informational resources to intensive in-person services.” *Source: Mental Health Commission of Canada*

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