



Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

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

Issue 83, 2020, November

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

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

[Equity](#)

[Disability & Social Care](#)

[Health Systems, Costs, & Reform](#)

[Long-Term Conditions](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Technology](#)

[Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

[Domestic Violence](#)

[Health of Older People](#)

[Public Health](#)

Equity

[Baseline Data Capture: Cultural Safety, Partnership and Health Equity Initiatives: Final Report](#)

"This report provides findings from research undertaken to capture a baseline of the current state of cultural safety in the practice of doctors in Aotearoa New Zealand (Aotearoa), and the cultural safety of patients – specifically those who identify as Māori – receiving health services from those doctors." *Source: Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa (Te ORA) and Medical Council of New Zealand*

[Language use is connected to indicators of wellbeing: evidence from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2014–15](#)

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have repeatedly asserted that individuals, families and communities can achieve better life outcomes if they maintain or develop knowledge and use of Indigenous languages. However, the evidence that rigorously quantifies the relationship between the use of Indigenous languages and wellbeing is limited.” *Source: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU)*

[Wellbeing and healing through connection and culture](#)

“This review summarises the emerging research and knowledge, key themes and principles surrounding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspectives and concepts of healing and social and emotional wellbeing as they relate to suicide prevention. These discussions will support Lifeline to enhance and refine their existing knowledge and practices to promote culturally responsive suicide prevention services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.” *Source: Lifeline (Australia)*

[How coronavirus has affected equality and human rights](#)

“This report outlines the currently known key impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on equality and human rights across key areas of life, and the risks faced by different groups.” *Source: Equality and Human Rights Commission (UK)*

[Avoidable natural deaths in prison custody: putting things right](#)

“This briefing paper presents the conclusions of an initiative by the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAP) and the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) to identify how natural deaths in prison might be prevented, where possible, and end of life care managed with dignity and compassion. These findings are especially relevant as prisons and prison healthcare enter recovery from, and assess the impact of, the immense challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.” *Source: Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAP) and the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

Health Systems, Costs, & Reform

[Creating the workforce of the future: a new collaborative approach for the NHS and colleges in England](#)

“This report follows a November 2019 roundtable held by the NHS Confederation and the Independent Commission on the College of the Future. It focused on the relationship between colleges and the NHS through the lens of integrated care systems. The report argues that by better embedding colleges into core NHS workforce development, and better using local recruitment and training power, a sustainable, agile and innovative future health and care workforce can be assured.” *Source: NHS Employers (UK)*

[A Guide to Patient Safety Improvement](#)

“This resource has been designed to support teams across all healthcare sectors in using a Knowledge Translation and Quality Improvement integrated approach to change that will impact patient safety outcomes. This Guide for Patient Safety Improvement is intended to accompany current best available evidence change ideas, and tools and resources for your

specific project. It includes ideal practice changes “the what” and strategies “the how” that creates the evidence-based intervention.” *Source: Canadian Patient Safety Institute*

Optimising healthcare through specialist referral reforms

“The specialist referral system is a key operational component of the Australian health system. It is designed to manage access to subsidised specialist services and remunerate MBS Providers at referred service rates. It is also designed to affirm the central role of primary healthcare services. The regulatory requirement for consumers to obtain repeat referrals when already under the care of a specialist has received limited scrutiny since the 1970s. Bringing the referral rules in line with contemporary health needs and service structures will require a well-co-ordinated, effective and efficient referral system that facilitates the evidence based and linear transfer of care from one clinician to another within a highly interoperable and collaborative healthcare system.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

Delivering a ‘Net Zero’ National Health Service

“This report provides a detailed account of the NHS’ modelling and analytics underpinning the latest NHS carbon footprint, trajectories to net zero and the interventions required to achieve that ambition. It lays out the direction, scale and pace of change. It describes an iterative and adaptive approach, which will periodically review progress and aims to increase the level of ambition over time.” *Source: NHS England*

The long-term impact of new care models on hospital use: an evaluation of the Integrated Care Transformation Programme in Mid-Nottinghamshire

“The briefing examines the impact of Mid-Nottinghamshire's Integrated Care Transformation Programme initiatives on hospital use for people aged over 18 years and registered with a GP practice in the region. It covers a 6-year period from the start of the initiatives in April 2013.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

WHO Guidance for Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities

The aim of this guidance is to enhance the capacity of health care facilities to protect and improve the health of their target communities in an unstable and changing climate; and to empower health care facilities to be environmentally sustainable, by optimizing the use of resources and minimizing the release of waste into the environment. Climate resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities contribute to high quality of care and accessibility of services, and by helping reduce facility costs also ensure better affordability. They are, therefore, an important component of universal health coverage (UHC). *Source: World Health Organization*

The bigger picture: Learning from two decades of changing NHS care in England

“An understanding of the past helps us to prepare for the future. In this, the REAL Centre's first report, [the authors] look back at the care and treatment provided by the NHS in England over the past two decades – as measured by health care activity. They provide a framework for understanding the drivers of health care activity. They describe how supply and demand side factors interact, and how policy can influence the care the NHS provides. We look at the overall trends in activity and how specific services have changed.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Building a resilient state: a collection of essays](#)

“The Covid-19 pandemic has placed a huge strain on the state, and while the response has demonstrated some of the great strengths of our public services and machinery of government, it has also exposed some of the biggest flaws. As an introduction to Reform's new Resilient State programme, this collection of essays brings together insight and expertise from across the political spectrum to explore different aspects of a resilient state. The series aims to provide a platform for innovative ideas, to stimulate debate, and help shape a way forward.” *Source: Reform (UK)*

[The Value Based Health Care landscape](#)

“A growing number of healthcare organisations are embarking on a Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) journey, and research exploring success factors to implementation provides encouraging insights...By consulting with key opinion leaders from seven countries, this paper attempts to understand the factors that are likely to contribute to the success of VBHC implementation in Australia.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

[rpavirtual: A new way of caring](#)

“The RPA Virtual Hospital, known as rpavirtual, is a new model of care which combines Sydney Local Health District's (SLHD) integrated hospital and community care with the latest digital solutions. rpavirtual was launched in early 2020 as an alternative, sustainable solution to increasing demand for healthcare in Sydney, where it acts as a bridge between hospital specialist services and patient care in the community.” *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

[Health and Wellbeing Interventions in Healthcare: A rapid evidence review](#)

“The aim of this report was to undertake a rapid review of the evidence base of health and wellbeing interventions used in healthcare and their implications for wellbeing outcomes. The findings would add to current knowledge about wellbeing interventions that are commonly implemented, if there is any evidence of their efficacy, and what future research still needs to be undertaken in this area. The review captures papers written in the English language, published in the last 10 years which focussed specifically on wellbeing interventions (both physical and mental wellbeing) in healthcare settings.” *Source: Institute for Employment Studies (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

COVID-19

[Captaining a Team of 5 Million: New Zealand Beats Back COVID-19](#)

In early 2020, a novel coronavirus spread from Wuhan, China, to almost every corner of the globe. COVID-19 caused devastation in every country where it gained a foothold and was allowed to spread through the population. When the first cases hit New Zealand at the end of February and beginning of March, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern moved decisively by adopting a “go hard, go early” lockdown strategy to stop the virus from spreading across the island nation. Behind Ardern stood a small cadre of civil servants and infectious disease experts who studied the rapidly evolving science of pandemic response—and the virus itself—and made policy recommendations to Ardern and her cabinet. Behind that response team stood a battalion of police, healthcare professionals, and other essential workers ready to implement the policies. And behind them stood everyday New Zealanders—whom Ardern

referred to as “the team of 5 million”—who gave up personal freedoms for the greater good during a mandatory national lockdown. A far-reaching and comprehensive communication effort drove strong public acceptance as the government shifted health directives and policies in response to the fast-changing situation. *Source: Princeton University*

Childhood in the time of Covid

“Children have fewer health risks from Covid-19 and yet they have suffered disproportionately from the nation’s efforts to contain the virus. This report aims to set out, in one place, the key ways in which children’s lives have been impacted as a result of the Covid-19 crisis – the nation’s biggest test since the Second World War. In doing so, it provides a roadmap for what must be done to enable children to recover from their experiences, and how their needs must be put first in the event of further lockdowns.”

Source: Children’s Commissioner (UK)

Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine

“Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine offers an overarching framework for vaccine allocation to assist policy makers in the domestic and global health communities. Built on widely accepted foundational principles and recognizing the distinctive characteristics of COVID-19, this report’s recommendations address the commitments needed to implement equitable allocation policies for COVID-19 vaccine.” *Source: National Academies Press*

Public attitudes on vaccine distribution

“The aim of this paper is to summarise the results from a survey experiment on a probability-based, representative sample of the Australian population during mid-August 2020, that tested explicitly the relative weight that Australians put on different characteristics of individuals, in terms of who should receive a vaccine ahead of others.” *Source: Centre for Social Research and Methods (ANU)*

Genomic Epidemiology Data Infrastructure Needs for SARS-CoV-2: Modernizing Pandemic Response Strategies

“Genomic Epidemiology Data Infrastructure Needs for SARS-CoV-2: Modernizing Pandemic Response Strategies lays out a framework to define and describe the data needs for a system to track and correlate viral genome sequences with clinical and epidemiological data. Such a system would help ensure the integration of data on viral evolution with detection, diagnostic, and countermeasure efforts. This report also explores data collection mechanisms to ensure a representative global sample set of all relevant extant sequences and considers challenges and opportunities for coordination across existing domestic, global, and regional data sources.” *Source: National Academies Press*

Rapid evidence review: inequalities in relation to Covid-19 and their effects on London

“The Greater London Authority (GLA) commissioned the University of Manchester to conduct a rapid evidence review to document and understand the impact of COVID-19 (in terms of both health and the broader impacts on existing social and economic inequalities) on those with protected characteristics, as well as those living in poorer, or more precarious, socioeconomic circumstances, paying particular attention to its effect in London. The report provides the outcomes of the review, as well as a series of recommendations, which are

focused on identifying tractable policy solutions in order to prevent, or mitigate, the inequalities in relation to protected characteristics and socioeconomic position that result from the COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses to it.” *Source: Greater London Authority*

[Improving Pandemic Preparedness: Lessons From COVID-19](#)

This Task Force proposes a robust strategy consisting of critical institutional reforms and policy innovations to help the United States and the world perform better. Although there is no substitute for effective political leadership, the recommendations proposed here would if implemented place the nation and the world on a firmer footing to confront humanity’s next microbial foe. *Source: Council on Foreign Relations (US)*

[A Theory of Voluntary Testing and Self-isolation in an Ongoing Pandemic](#)

“Thinking beyond Covid-19, there is a growing interest in what economic structures will be needed to face ongoing pandemics. In this paper we focus on the diagnostic problem and examine a new paradigm of voluntary self-testing by private individuals. People without symptoms face daily choices of either taking the risk of going out (to work and socialize), versus staying at home in self-isolation. Our theory shows that two types of people voluntarily test themselves: those who otherwise would have self-isolated, and those who would have gone out indiscriminately.” *Source: National Bureau of Economic Research (US)*

[How have countries restarted more routine hospital activities during the COVID-19 pandemic?](#)

“As the COVID-19 pandemic unravelled, hospitals had to deal with the often overwhelming need to treat patients exposed to the virus. To minimize exposure and maximize health workforce capacity, many hospitals postponed elective procedures and non-essential services. As a number of countries in Europe have begun to carefully resume services that were limited or suspended during the first wave of the pandemic, this policy snapshot looks at how six countries (England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands) planned to restart more routine hospital care services.” *Source: World Health Organization Europe*

[Back to top](#)

Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Mental Health in Aotearoa – Insight report](#)

“This insight report describes results from the 2018 New Zealand Mental Health Monitor and 2018/19 Ministry of Health New Zealand Health Survey. The Mental Health in Aotearoa insight updates some existing information on the commonality of mental distress and population distribution of levels of mental distress, as well as presenting new findings. Throughout our analysis a theme of high mental distress in young people emerged. Our main findings include that the proportion of the adult population with high levels of mental distress is increasing over time and that general mental distress, anxiety and depressive symptoms are highest amongst young people.” *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

[eCoaching for The Journal pilot: Final evaluation report](#)

“This evaluation covers five key evaluation questions (KEQs) on a year-long implementation of a telehealth peer support model to coach people through the National Depression

Initiative's cognitive-behavioural tool The Journal. Between May 2019 and May 2020, 249 people were supported with phone and text support which resulted in a reduction in depression symptoms. The evaluation reports on service fidelity and the benefits and issues of mixing medical and lived experience models." *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

[Inquiry into the support available for young people who self-harm](#)

"Respondents to the inquiry made clear that the single most impactful change to improve the support available to young people who self-harm would be a system shift away from the current reliance on crisis interventions towards a preventative model of support. To facilitate this long term aim, planned investment in NHS mental health support for young people should be increased and brought forward more quickly than currently planned. Investment in community-based preventative services, often delivered by the third sector, will also be key." *Source: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention (UK)*

[What can be done to decrease suicidal behaviour in Australia?](#)

"This white paper considers emerging research and experiential evidence and its potential to drive system reform and reduce suicide." *Source: Black Dog Institute*

[Mental health and human rights of people on the move](#)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has simultaneously shed light on and exacerbated many of the world's most persistent problems. One of these is the unfulfilled promise, as enshrined in international law, of the right of refugees and migrants to the highest attainable standard of not only physical health – but also mental health. This public statement looks at the mental health needs of refugees and migrants, whilst highlighting the inadequacies of current responses to them. The COVID-19 pandemic is a grave challenge to all of humanity, threatening not only our livelihoods but our very lives. At the same time, it provides us as a global community with an urgent impetus to reshape our societies in order to be more healthy, inclusive and fair for all." *Source: Amnesty International*

[Mental health in the COVID-19 pandemic: Recommendations for prevention](#)

"The Mental Health Foundation has identified specific actions that governments and other actors can take to minimise the risk of widespread and long-term mental health problems as a result of the pandemic." *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

[Beyond the pandemic: Strategic priorities for responding to childhood trauma – a coronavirus pandemic briefing policy](#)

"The UK Trauma Council suggests a focus on understanding the impact of trauma on children's development and wellbeing, and responding appropriately." *Source: UK Trauma Council*

[Back to top](#)

Health of Older People

[World Alzheimer report 2020: design, dignity, dementia: dementia-related design and the built environment](#)

“The World Alzheimer Report 2020 gives a global perspective of dementia-related design that takes a cross cultural approach and spans across two volumes, including 84 case studies and interviews with leaders in the field of dementia design.” *Source: Alzheimer’s Disease International*

[Minds that matter: Understanding mental health in later life](#)

“Poor mental health is not an inevitable part of ageing. But people of all ages and stages of life can struggle with their mental health and wellbeing. In this new report, [the authors] look at the life events and circumstances that can affect people’s mental health in later life. These include things like bereavement, loneliness, ill health and caring responsibilities.” *Source: Independent Age (UK)*

[Rethinking aged care: emphasising the rights of older Australians](#)

“This report identifies five principles which should shape system design: Independence, self-fulfilment, and participation in community; Informed and supported choice and control; Universal access to reasonable and necessary supports; Equity and non-discrimination; and Dignity, including dignity in death. A rights-based approach to aged care would also recognise the rights of carers and staff.” *Source: Grattan Institute (Australia)*

[Aged care and COVID-19: a special report](#)

“The report is the result of a hearing of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety into the impact of COVID-19 on aged care, which was held in Sydney from 10 to 13 August 2020.” *Source: Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (Australia)*

[Back to top](#)

Disability & Social Care

[Evaluating the impact of communication passports](#)

“Communication passports are a tool for supporting people who cannot easily speak for themselves by making information from formal assessments easily accessible to all. A good communication passport accurately describes communication strengths and needs, and contains information about the person in a very clear way.” *Source: NIHR School for Social Care Research (UK)*

[Back to top](#)

Long-Term Conditions

[Self-care for health: a national policy blueprint. Policy paper 2020-01](#)

“This paper makes the case for new policy to promote and expand the role of self-care in the Australian health system. Based on the evidence of what works, the Blueprint presents a suite of priority policy proposals for implementation in Australia to support self-care through health policy and practice. A network of over 50 experts – comprising academics, health professionals, healthcare consumers and other self-care, chronic disease and health policy experts – discussed, refined and endorsed these policy priorities.” *Source: Mitchell Institute (Australia)*

[Back to top](#)

Technology

[Good intentions, bad inventions: the four myths of healthy tech](#)

“The tech companies that design and build so many of the devices, platforms, and software we use for hours each day have embraced myths that push a flawed understanding of digital well-being. While we are encouraged that these companies are dedicating greater attention to social media’s effect on the mental and physical health of users, their current approaches to improving user wellbeing fundamentally misunderstand how people engage with technology. At its worst, this approach funnels time and resources to making technology more “enriching” for middle-class white users, while failing to address the systemic harms that minority communities face.” *Source: Data & Society Research Institute (US)*

[Pushing the boundaries: using telehealth to improve regional access and care](#)

“This Policy Brief focuses on telehealth and the opportunity to use existing services more effectively to embed paediatric expertise in regional primary care.” *Source: Centre for Community Child Health (Australia)*

[From Research to Reality: The Expert Panel on the Approval and Use of Somatic Gene Therapies in Canada](#)

“From Research to Reality describes the stages involved in the approval and use of gene therapies in Canada, and examines challenges associated with regulatory oversight, manufacturing, access, and affordability, and identifies promising approaches to address them.” *Source: The Expert Panel on the Approval and Use of Somatic Gene Therapies in Canada*

[Back to top](#)

Domestic Violence

[The relationship between gambling and intimate partner violence against women](#)

“This qualitative study investigated the relationship between gambling and violence by men against their female intimate partners. The study found that while gambling does not directly cause intimate partner violence, it reinforces the gendered drivers of violence to intensify the frequency and severity of intimate partner violence against women.” *Source: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Limited*

[Safe and Together Addressing ComplexitY for Children \(STACY for Children\)](#)

“This report explores the common co-occurrence of domestic and family violence (DFV) when parents have challenges relating to mental health and the problematic use of alcohol and other drugs. The research project also found evidence that a coordinated approach is needed to address these complex intersecting issues and to enable practitioners to work with each individual member of the family.” *Source: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Limited*

[When home becomes the workplace: family violence, practitioner wellbeing and remote service delivery during COVID-19 restrictions](#)

“This report presents the findings of a state-wide study of the wellbeing impacts of working during the COVID-19 restrictions on Victoria’s specialist family violence and men’s services

sector; the frontline response to the 'shadow pandemic', alongside an exploration of the challenges and benefits of delivering services remotely during this period. The authors draw on insights gained from a survey of 113 Victorian practitioners responding to family violence and from focus groups with 28 practitioners from specialist family violence and men's services during July-August 2020. This report also draws attention to the wellbeing considerations for Victorian practitioners working remotely to support people experiencing and using violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides critical insights into how practitioners can be supported remotely to do this incredibly challenging yet crucial work."

Source: Monash University (Australia)

[Social isolation, time spent at home, financial stress and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

In this study, data is used from a large online survey of Australian women to examine whether the increased time spent at home, social isolation and financial stress resulting from COVID-19 containment measures were associated with a higher likelihood of physical and sexual violence among women in current cohabiting relationships with and without a history of violence. *Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*

[Back to top](#)

Public Health

[Global Tuberculosis Report](#)

"WHO has published a global TB report every year since 1997. The main aim of the report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels. This is done in the context of recommended global TB strategies and targets endorsed by WHO's Member States, broader development goals set by the United Nations (UN) and targets set in the political declaration at the first UN high-level meeting on TB (held in September 2018) ." *Source: World Health Organization*

[Back to top](#)

The information available on or through this newsletter does not represent Ministry of Health policy. It is intended to provide general information to the health sector and the public, and is not intended to address specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity.