



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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Equity

[Reclaiming fairness: perspectives on intergenerational equity in public policy in New Zealand](#)

"The research that underpins this paper sought to better understand these concerns by exploring values, intergenerational awareness and anticipation within the public policy system. The underlying theory of change is centred on the need to shift the public policy system towards a long-term, intergenerational approach that values Indigenous perspectives and non-material value by prioritising sustainability, equity and innovation. The aim is that in doing so it will enable a more anticipatory, resilient and adaptive system that drives prosperity for all. This requires moving away

from short-term gains and recognising the generations of people who will live with the consequences of today's choices, ensuring that present-day decision-makers are not borrowing from the future." *Source: UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose*

Five Essential Conditions for Health Equity

"This report uses the WHO Five Essential Conditions, an innovative rights- and evidence based multi-sectoral policy action framework, aiming to address complex and persistent health gaps, accelerate action and increase opportunities to achieve healthy prosperous lives for all, leaving no one behind. This is the first in a series of reports, which will focus on each of the five essential conditions with examples of international best practice. The essential conditions overlap and are interconnected, which highlights the need for cross-sector and systems approach to address health inequity." *Source: World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-Being*

Health Equity Measurement: Considerations for Selecting a Benchmark

"This brief summarizes the advantages and disadvantages of four common approaches to health equity benchmarking." *Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (US)*

Toward Equitable Innovation in Health and Medicine: A Framework

"Advances in biomedical science, data science, engineering, and technology are leading to high-pace innovation with potential to transform health and medicine. These innovations simultaneously raise important ethical and social issues, including how to fairly distribute their benefits and risks. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, in collaboration with the National Academy of Medicine, established the Committee on Creating a Framework for Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation in Health and Medicine to provide leadership and engage broad communities in developing a framework for aligning the development and use of transformative technologies with ethical and equitable principles. The committee's resulting report describes a governance framework for decisions throughout the innovation life cycle to advance equitable innovation and support an ecosystem that is more responsive to the needs of a broader range of individuals and is better able to recognize and address inequities as they arise." *Source: National Academies Press*

Questions of fairness in health and social care policy decisions: a Socratic approach

"The Socratic method is a way of teaching attributed by Plato to Socrates that works through teachers asking questions of their students, to clarify students' thinking and expose the reasons for thinking as they do. This research paper takes the form of a checklist of questions for those who make and implement health and social care policies. The questions cover the broad context of health and care, fairness as a concept, public health, implementation and other topics." *Source: Centre for Health Economics (UK)*

Access Denied? Socioeconomic Inequalities

"This report seeks to understand how people who have lived experience of poverty and ongoing health concerns are impacted by health inequalities when interacting with patient-facing digital health services. The findings suggest a need for policy-makers, health care leaders, and digital health service designers and developers to reconsider how they use data and how they design and deploy digital health services." *Source: Ada Lovelace Institute (UK)*

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Public Health

[A health promotion approach for reducing youth exposure to alcogenic environments: Snapshot series on alcohol policies and practice](#)

“A recent body of research evidence has emerged related to the measurement, functional significance and consequences of living in alcogenic environments. This includes findings on the complex and bidirectional interactions among alcohol acceptability, availability and affordability and how they create and perpetuate alcogenic environments. Comprehensive and enforced alcohol control policies are effective at delaying the age of onset and lowering alcohol prevalence and frequency among young people. Evidence consistently confirms the effectiveness of designing and implementing alcohol control policies that regulate upstream the drivers of alcogenic environment, including alcohol availability, acceptability and affordability. These policies need to be multipronged and address the complex interactions between these drivers and the local alcohol culture.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Trialling a nature-based intervention with men who perpetrate domestic and family violence](#)

“This study aimed to develop, pilot, test and refine an innovative program that incorporates an integrated approach and includes community restitution through an environmental project that operated in parallel to a traditional men’s behaviour change program. Data were collected pre and post intervention with men, practitioners, volunteers and (ex)partners.” *Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*

[Warm Home Prescription: Impact on Health & Wellbeing and Attitudes to Heat](#)

“This report presents the results of a study commissioned by Energy Systems Catapult to evaluate the impact of its Warm Home Prescription (WHP) scheme. WHP aims to combat cold-related health risks by providing immediate assistance to maintain warm homes. The trial showed positive outcomes, with most recipients achieving warmer homes, leading to improved physical and mental health. It also potentially reduced hospital stays and health care service use.” *Source: Energy Systems Catapult (UK)*

[Urban rewilding and public health considerations](#)

“This evidence brief provides an overview of the health impacts of urban rewilding, and aims to provide environmental public health professionals with the knowledge necessary to evaluate, advocate for, and provide input on the human health component of urban rewilding projects.” *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health (Canada)*

[Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Proceedings from a Virtual Discussion with Public Health Decision- makers and Practitioners in Canada](#)

“This report summarizes the proceedings of a dialogue on MDR-TB care in Canada which was held online April 25 and 26, 2023. The event brought together 31 participants, some with lived experience of MDR-TB and some who were policy makers, researchers, and public health personnel from different regions in Canada. The intent of the dialogue was to provide an opportunity for

stakeholders to discuss current challenges to the provision of effective, equitable MDR-TB care in Canada and possible solutions.” *National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (Canada)*

[The effectiveness of obesity prevention approaches targeting children aged 5–12 years delivered in primary schools](#)

“This evidence check... aimed to discover the effectiveness of obesity prevention programs for children delivered in primary school settings. It also examined how best to implement them, to maximise the number of children participating and the overall impact of the programs.” *Source: Sax Institute (Australia)*

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Long-Term Conditions

[Global mapping report on multisectoral actions to strengthen the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions: experiences from around the world](#)

“There is growing understanding and high-level endorsement of the importance of strong collaborative multisectoral approaches to address a broad range of social, economic and governance issues for the prevention and control of noncommunicable disease (NCDs) and mental health conditions. In 2019, World Health Organization (WHO) Member States requested the WHO Director-General to provide an analysis across countries of successful approaches for the prevention and control of NCDs that used multisectoral action. This report describes the experiences of different countries, areas and territories in implementing multisectoral actions to tackle NCDs and is the first step to address their request for an analysis of such efforts.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Global report on hypertension: the race against a silent killer](#)

“This report compiles data for the first time on the far-reaching consequences of uncontrolled hypertension, including heart attacks, strokes and premature death, along with substantial economic losses for communities and countries. It also contains information on the global, regional and country-level burden of hypertension and progress of control efforts.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Disability

[Global report on children with developmental disabilities](#)

“Using findings from research and practice and guided by the tenets of international human rights conventions, this WHO-UNICEF Global Report on children with developmental disabilities provides principles and approaches to intentionally include the needs and aspirations of children and young people with developmental disabilities in policy, programming and public health monitoring. It makes the case for greater accountability and proposes 10 priority actions to accelerate changes towards inclusive environments and responsive multisectoral care systems for children with developmental disabilities.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Reducing restrictive practices: a review of evidence-based alternatives](#)

“The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability commissioned the Social Policy Research Centre (UNSW) to review academic literature about ways to reduce the use of restrictive practices on people with disability.” *Source: Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability*

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COVID-19

[Environmental surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 to complement other public health surveillance](#)

“This guidance supersedes the first April 2022 version. It is targeted at public health officials who want to understand and integrate complementary environmental surveillance (ES) into COVID-19 control strategies. Routine diagnostic surveillance for COVID-19 has been augmented with ES in wastewater in many locations. ES provides additional evidence on virus in circulation at population level including presence or absence, early warning of increasing or decreasing trends, and information on variants of concern or interest.” *Source: World Health Organization*

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Artificial Intelligence

[Missing persons: the case of national AI strategies](#)

“This paper examines whether officials informed and consulted their citizens as they developed a key aspect of AI policy — national AI strategies. Building on a data set of 68 countries and the European Union, the authors used qualitative methods to examine whether, how and when governments engaged with their citizens on their AI strategies and whether they were responsive to public comment, concluding that policy makers are missing an opportunity to build trust in AI by not using this process to involve a broader cross-section of their constituents.” *Source: Centre for International Governance Innovation*

[Initial policy considerations for generative artificial intelligence](#)

“Generative artificial intelligence (AI) creates new content in response to prompts, offering transformative potential across multiple sectors such as education, entertainment, healthcare and scientific research. However, these technologies also pose critical societal and policy challenges that policy makers must confront: potential shifts in labour markets, copyright uncertainties, and risk associated with the perpetuation of societal biases and the potential for misuse in the creation of disinformation and manipulated content. Consequences could extend to the spreading of mis- and disinformation, perpetuation of discrimination, distortion of public discourse and markets, and the incitement of violence. Governments recognise the transformative impact of generative AI and are actively working to address these challenges. This paper aims to inform these policy considerations and support decision makers in addressing them.” *Source: OECD*

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Health Technology & Information

[Progress on implementing and using electronic health record systems](#)

“Electronic Health Records (eHR) represent a significant digital transformation in the healthcare sector. A 2021 OECD survey of 27 countries revealed a growing adoption of eHRs. However, system fragmentation remains a concern: only 15 countries have a nationally unified system. Twenty-four countries have adopted a minimum data set for standardized core health information. While patient access to eHRs has notably increased since 2016, obstacles such as provider resistance, technical barriers, and legal hurdles continue to exist. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the pivotal role of eHRs, particularly in vaccine tracking and post-market surveillance, highlighting the pressing need for international cooperation to maximize the benefits of eHRs in healthcare. Furthermore, as eHRs integrate with artificial intelligence, new governance challenges arise.” *Source: OECD*

[Valuing data: where are we, and where do we go next?](#)

“The paper concludes with recommendations that include widening data-valuation efforts to the public sector, which is a major holder of data. The social value of data also needs to be calculated by considering both the positive and negative aspects of data-related investment and use. Appropriate data governance strategies are needed to ensure that data is being used for everyone’s benefit.”

Source: Centre for International Governance Innovation

[Developing a data pact: the relationship between the public, their data, and the health and care system](#)

“This report shows that the relationship between patients and their data is deeply personal. Patients recognise that the potential for data use to improve care is huge. This research showed widespread support for realising this potential – if patients’ concerns are acknowledged and addressed.” *Source: The Patients Association (UK)*

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Quality & Safety

[Patient engagement for patient safety: The why, what, and how of patient engagement for improving patient safety](#)

“Patients’ and citizens’ perspectives and their active engagement are critical to make health systems safer and people-centred, and are key for co-designing health services and co-producing good health with healthcare professionals, and building trust in health systems. Patients, families, caregivers and citizens can contribute towards improving patient safety at all levels from clinical, local, institutional (e.g. hospital, nursing home), community (e.g. primary care, home care) and national levels of healthcare systems. This report, the sixth in the series on the Economics of Patient Safety, covers: (i) the economic impact of patient engagement for patient safety; (ii) the results of a pilot data collection to measure patient-reported experiences of safety and; (iii) the status of initiatives on patient engagement for patient safety taken in 21 countries, which responded to a snapshot survey. It also provides recommendations for countries to enhance patient engagement for patient safety.”

Source: OECD

[Martha’s Rule: a new policy to amplify patient voice and improve safety in hospitals](#)

Martha Mills died aged 13 in the summer of 2021 and the inquest into her death heard that she would likely have survived the sepsis that killed her had consultants made a decision to move her to intensive care sooner. This report is a response to a call from Martha Mills’ parents to rebalance the

power between patients and medics to improve patient safety. It outlines evidence that shows that failing to properly listen to patients and their families contributes to safety problems in the NHS, along with public awareness among citizens that the NHS can feel unresponsive at times.” *Source: Demos (UK)*

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Wellbeing

[The Wellbeing Roundtable approach: a guide to creating effective wellbeing frameworks](#)

“This guidance is for policy professionals and practitioners in government and other civic organisations. It includes practical support and flexible guidance to help navigate the critical decisions involved in creating or revising an effective wellbeing framework.” *Source: Carnegie UK Trust*

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Primary and Community Care

[Building community health and care capacity: reflections from other countries](#)

“Changing our services so that more care is provided in community settings and people can leave hospital when they are fit for discharge has been an explicit policy aim for decades. Other, similar countries have been on the same mission and have had more success. Why might this be? This new analysis looks internationally at how our performance compares and how other countries have succeeded in building up community health and care services to understand what England might learn.” *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

[Singapore: a primary health care case study in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

“This case study examines primary health care (PHC) in Singapore to inform future policy and practice, incorporating lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic between January 2020 and December 2022.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[General practitioners raising and discussing sensitive health issues with patients: an Evidence Check rapid review](#)

“The review looked at what is known about discussing sensitive preventive health issues from both patients and GPs perspectives and approaches and factors that have been shown to be effective. The identified evidence was generally of moderate to high methodological quality.” *Source: Sax Institute (Australia)*

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