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.

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

Mapping of public financial management tools for assessing bottlenecks in the health sector
This mapping provides country-level users with quick access to information about key public financial management (PFM) tools relevant for assessing challenges in budget formulation, execution, and monitoring within the health sector. It concisely outlines what tools are available and

broadly illustrates why and when each tool can be used, providing examples showcasing how tools were applied in particular country contexts. The aim of this mapping exercise is to help country users make an informed decision when selecting which tool(s) is appropriate for assessing particular PFM health issues in their context. *Source: World Health Organization*

Health at a Glance 2023: OECD Indicators
Health at a Glance provides a comprehensive set of indicators on population health and health system performance across OECD members and key emerging economies. These cover health status, risk factors for health, access to and quality of healthcare, and health system resources. Analysis draws from the latest comparable official national statistics and other sources. Alongside indicator-by-indicator analysis, an overview chapter summarises the comparative performance of countries and major trends. This edition also has a special focus on digital health, which measures the digital readiness of OECD countries' health systems, and outlines what countries need to do accelerate the digital health transformation. *Source: OECD*

Briefing: Improvement as mainstream business
"Improvement approaches, which provide a systematic means of bringing about measurable improvements in the quality and outcomes of care for patients as well as care productivity, have been in common use in some health care settings for more than 20 years, often producing impressive results where they are deployed well." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

Finding a way home: How health and social care can optimise hospital flow and discharge this winter to improve outcomes and performance
The report "concludes that improving care at home, more sheltered, extra care and dementia-focused housing, investment in crisis resolution intermediate care, and better information and advice for older and disabled people would prevent many from needing hospital or residential care, reducing pressures across health and social care every winter." *Source: County Councils Network (UK)*

Social R&D: the next phase of public service reform?
"Drawing on theories and practice such as social innovation, human development and participation, the brief makes the case for public service reform that applies innovation methods and addresses social goals." *Source: Bennett Institute for Public Policy (UK)*

Nine major challenges facing health and care in England
"The next UK government will face difficult choices on health and social care. Short-term pressures on the NHS require urgent attention, but so do longer term challenges facing the nation's health, which – in turn – will shape future demands on the health service and the resources available to meet them. Understanding the range of challenges facing health and care in the future is essential to identify the action needed by policymakers to address them." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

Storytelling for Systems Change: Listening to Understand
"Researchers spoke to government officials, funders, academics, and other practitioners about creating the conditions for stories to be heard by those who need to hear them." *Source: Centre for Public Impact*

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Determinants of Health
The contribution of behavioural science to addressing the social and wider determinants of health: evidence review

This report was commissioned by the Behavioural Insights Unit. It discusses the contribution of behavioural sciences, broadly defined, to addressing social and wider determinants of health, and describes findings about differences and similarities between the two approaches. The report makes the case for bringing together the evidence and knowledge of differing approaches and outlines practical implications. *Source: World Health Organization*

Integrating the social determinants of health into health workforce education and training
"Because the conditions and circumstances in which people live are diverse and constantly changing, it follows that there is no single universal approach to addressing social determinants of health. However, there are common guiding and organizational principles that can be applied in health workforce education and training, in a consistent and reinforcing manner in all settings. This book aims to collate information produced by WHO on social determinants of health, to help the educators of health workers to integrate the social determinants of health into education and training." *Source: World Health Organization*

Acting on the social determinants of health to reduce health inequalities: innovative approaches by provider trusts
"A new report, Acting on the social determinants of health to reduce health inequalities: innovative approaches by provider trusts, outlines how four trusts are taking action to improve employment, increase income, improve education, and reduce air pollution." *Source: UCL Partners (UK)*

Social determinants of mental health challenges and problematic substance use: Rapid review
"Social determinants have a key role in shaping peoples' likelihood of experiencing mental health challenges and problematic substance use. This rapid review brings together the findings from over 100 meta-analysis studies to identify and consider the strength of evidence for the structural and intermediate determinants on mental health challenges and problematic substance use." *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

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Climate Change & Sustainability
Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems
"This document presents the World Health Organization Operational framework for building climate resilient and low carbon health systems. The framework's goal is to increase the climate resilience of health systems to protect and improve the health of communities in an unstable and changing climate, while optimizing the use of resources and implementing strategies to reduce GHG emissions. It aims to contribute to the design of transformative health systems that can provide safe and quality care in a changing climate." *Source: World Health Organization*

What do we have to lose? Understanding and responding to climate-induced loss of life and health
"This paper seeks to highlight the nature of loss and damage to human health and agency, the ways in which climate change impacts upon them, and potential responses to avert and minimise it." *Source: Overseas Development Institute*

Preserving the world for future generations: Children and young people's perspectives on how to tackle climate change
"Preserving the world for future generations, offers a holistic view of how CYP [children and young people] - both in the UK and internationally - perceive and understand climate change." *Source: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK)*

The concept of 'climate refugee': Towards a possible definition

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"There is no clear definition of a 'climate refugee', nor are climate refugees covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention. The latter covers only people who have a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and who are unable or unwilling to seek protection from their home countries. This means that climate cannot currently be cited as a reason for seeking asylum or refugee status, although the 2018 Global Compact for Migration, in its second objective, cites climate as a potential reason for migration. While the EU has not formally recognised 'climate refugees', it has expressed growing concern and has taken action to support and develop resilience in countries most vulnerable to climate-related stress." *Source: European Parliament*

A Shared Future: Working with communities to adapt to a changing climate
"The report finds that involving communities in adaptation efforts is just as crucial as finding the right engineering solutions. Adapting to a changing climate will be disruptive and intrusive for many. If meaningful community engagement is neglected, it's likely to create division, weaken the effectiveness of adaptation efforts, and make them less credible and durable." *Source: WSP (New Zealand)*

Green Surgery: Reducing the environmental impact of surgical care
"Reducing and reusing products used in surgery, shutdown checklists for operating rooms to save energy when not in use and switching to less harmful anaesthetics are all highlighted as ways in which carbon emissions could be reduced. The report also highlights the importance of surgeons and patients working together to optimise their treatment, as well as the role of disease prevention and health promotion in transitioning to more sustainable models of surgical care." *Source: Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (UK)*

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Public Health
Creating the Conditions for Resilient Communities: A Public Health Approach to Emergencies
"This year's annual report explores the inequitable health impacts of emergencies. It highlights opportunities for public health to contribute to emergency management through the essential public health functions, particularly health promotion approaches that can support equity and resilience. A key objective of this report is to ensure better health security by including critical health promotion capabilities and capacities in emergency management plans and activities. If systematically integrated, health promotion can help communities to be more resilient, increase social connections and cohesion, and foster trust amongst communities, response partners, and decision makers." *Source: Public Health Agency of Canada*

Global research agenda on health, migration and displacement: Strengthening research and translating research priorities into policy and practice
"This publication sets out five research themes to be addressed over the next five years. It also includes an Implementation Guide and Toolkit for other actors to adapt and expand upon the research agenda at regional, national and local levels. It provides a roadmap to strengthen global research collaborations and calls for urgent investment in research and the translation of evidence into policy and practice to support leaders at all levels in creating inclusive and responsive health care systems for migrants, refugees and other displaced populations." *Source: World Health Organization*

Global tuberculosis report 2023
The WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2023 provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global,

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regional and country levels. This is done in the context of global TB commitments, strategies and targets. *Site: World Health Organization*

[Trialling a nature-based intervention with men who perpetrate domestic and family violence](#)
"Evidence for nature-based interventions reducing recidivism among offenders is growing. Nature-based interventions have yet to be trialled with men who have perpetrated domestic 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. Study results indicate initial positive trends in improving men's wellbeing and engagement, but further research is needed to determine impacts on behaviour change." *Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*

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Research & Evaluation
[Practical guide to evaluation for programme managers and evaluation staff](#)
"The Practical Guide to Evaluation for Programme Managers and Evaluation Staff aims to support managers and staff who are not professional evaluators to plan and commission evaluations. It also aims to share a common approach to evaluation within the organization at all levels that reflects standards applied broadly by the professional evaluation community." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Cancer
[Research and development landscape for childhood cancer: a 2023 perspective](#)
"This report provides an overview of the funding and R&D landscape in childhood cancer. The report, based on data from the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development, brings the key challenges into focus and provides recommendations for improving the R&D ecosystem for childhood cancer." *Source: World Health Organization*

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Technology & Innovation
[Smart prescribing: harnessing technology in the fight against AMR](#)
"Deploying technology at an earlier stage of the decision-making process can support clinicians in making more appropriate decisions about the use of antibiotics, and therefore reduce the incidence of inappropriate prescribing." *Source: Reform (UK)*

[Fast-Track on digital security in health](#)
"In response to the increase of cyberattacks in health care settings, the Health Committee of the OECD asked for a paper on Digital Security as part of the OECD ongoing work on health data governance. This working paper emphasizes that as the healthcare industry undergoes digital transformation it brings significant benefits while simultaneously escalating the vulnerability to cyber threats." *Source: OECD*

[Connecting the Dots: The Expert Panel on Health Data Sharing](#)
"Connecting the Dots examines the opportunities for maximizing health data sharing in Canada. It focuses on both the benefits and risks associated with increasing that exchange, the legal and regulatory considerations related to health data governance, and the opportunities to implement

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solutions that facilitate health data sharing across organizations, provinces/territories, and the country while protecting patient privacy." *Source: Canadian Council of Academies*

[Data Governance in Health](#)
Intelligent use of data and digital technologies can elevate patient experience, improve staff satisfaction, drive operational efficiency, improve patient outcomes, and create new business models, with benefits for both the public and private sectors. This Implementation Know-How Brief provides…organizations involved in the implementation of Digital-in-Health activities with practical discussions, key terms and considerations, and broad guidance on how to engage with clients on the topic of data governance in health. *Source: World Bank*

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Health of Older People
[Te Kōrero mō ngā Kaumātua", a report highlighting the context of Older People in Aotearoa](#)
"This report provides the fullest possible picture, in one place, of what the social, environment and structural context of older people in New Zealand – as well as what is missing. By framing it as an easy-to-read guide with links to further information, [the authors] hope it will be of benefit to our members as well as to the people they serve in their communities." *Source: New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services*

[Connecting healthy ageing and vision](#)
"A new report released on World Sight Day by The Fred Hollows Foundation and the International Federation of Ageing (IFA) calls for close collaboration between the eye health and ageing sectors to protect and restore vision in older age." *Source: Fred Hollows Foundation*

[I believe in the magic of it: Creative arts engagement, wellbeing and dementia](#)
"Engaging people living with dementia in the creative arts can improve their wellbeing by providing a range of benefits, including cognitive and physical stimulation, social engagement, creative expression, and a sense of identity and purpose." *Source: Dementia Australia*

[Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2023: health in an ageing society](#)
"Professor Chris Whitty's annual report recommends actions to improve quality of life for older adults and prioritise areas with the fastest growth in older people." *Source: Department of Health and Social Care (UK)*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing
[Tāngata whaiora and whānau views on decision-making](#)
"This report summarises the themes from hui with tāngata whaiora and whānau on their experiences of decision-making under the Mental Health Act." *Source: Mental Health Foundation (New Zealand)*

[Toward Substance Use Health and Mental Health Service Integration: Findings from a Scoping Review](#)
"Substance use health and mental health (SUHMH) are closely linked, with many people experiencing challenges relating to both at the same time. The [Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction and the Mental Health Commission of Canada] undertook a systematic review of academic literature related to SUHMH service provision published between 2018 and 2021. This review reinforced the need for SUHMH integration and helped isolate some of the themes and key

factors influencing the broader uptake of integrated models." *Source: Mental Health Commission of Canada*

[Evaluation of Wave 16 initiatives for Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu](#)
"This evaluation focusses on the Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu Wave 16 commissioning process and outcomes for whānau. There are 83 entities in the wave, 62 of these were interviewed for this evaluation. Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu, the commissioning agency, is the realisation of an iwi-led Whānau Ora model that invests directly in whānau for social impact to bring about positive change for whānau. Previous evaluations have identified the successful components of the whānau commissioning approach (Savage et al., 2016 – 2018). The initiatives are highly contextual, utilising local resources and experience." *Source: Ihi Research (New Zealand)*

[Built Environment through a Well-being Lens](#)
"The built environment shapes the living conditions and quality of life for individuals, families and communities. Its scope includes individual elements, such as buildings, and its interaction with nature and society. This report identifies four key components of the built environment (i.e. housing, transport, urban design/land use and technical infrastructure) as having particular relevance to people's well-being, inclusion and sustainability. Each of these four key components of the built environment plays a role in economic well-being, shaping people's ability to access jobs and other economic opportunities. The built environment, however, also has strong influence over non-economic aspects of people's well-being, such as health, safety, environmental quality and social connections. This report focuses on these latter dimensions in particular, as they are often less well understood and appreciated." *Source: OECD*

[Looking upstream at the farmer mental health crisis in Canada](#)
"In the report, entitled Field Notes: Looking Upstream at the Farmer Mental Health Crisis in Canada, Canadian farmers and farm workers share their insight into the factors affecting their mental health via interviews and surveys." *Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives*

[Multidimensional disadvantage and wellbeing](#)
"The paper examines the measurement of different domains of disadvantage – income poverty, deprivation, and social exclusion – to develop new disadvantage measures based on the dimensionality of disadvantage. These new dimensional measures are then used to examine the relationship between disadvantage and wellbeing." *Source: New Zealand Productivity Commission*

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Equity
[Examining the History, Consequences, and Effects of Race-Based Clinical Algorithms on Health Equity](#)
"The National Academies Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity hosted a virtual public workshop in July 2023 to discuss the premise, history, and development of race-based clinical algorithms and their contributions to health inequities. Examining ways to promote race-conscious medicine, participants explored the underlying assumptions of racial differences in physiology, and parameters for identifying instances when race and ethnicity as social constructs are legitimate considerations for improving health equity, such as when promoting outreach, screening, and community education and engagement." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Measuring Cultural Safety in Health Systems: Lessons Learned From Providence Health Care in British Columbia](#)

"This report provides context and lessons learned from Providence Health Care in B.C. It is based on the experiences of 1 organization at a given point in time and is unique to its context. The information is primarily intended to support other health service organizations and health authorities in their journey toward eliminating anti-Indigenous racism in Canada's health systems. It will also inform CIHI's work in developing a core set of cultural safety indicators in partnership with Indigenous Peoples." *Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information*

Indigenous cultural safety - An environmental scan of cultural safety initiatives in Canada – Chapter 1 – Introduction
"This introductory chapter of the NCCIH's Indigenous cultural safety: An environmental scan of cultural safety initiatives in Canada introduces the concept of cultural safety and its role in addressing anti-Indigenous racism within health care. It also provides an overview of the methods used to identify relevant cultural safety strategies, initiatives, tools, and resources in the healthcare system, the criteria for inclusion/exclusion, and the organization of the environmental scan, which is based on Greenwood's (2019) change model for cultural safety, demanding simultaneous action across structural, systemic, and service delivery levels." *Source: National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health*

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Artificial Intelligence

Using AI to support people with disability in the labour market: opportunities and challenges
"Building on interviews with more than 70 stakeholders, this report explores the potential of AI to foster employment for people with disability, accounting for both the transformative possibilities of AI-powered solutions and the risks attached to the increased use of AI for people with disability. It also identifies obstacles hindering the use of AI and discusses what governments could do to avoid the risks and seize the opportunities of using AI to support people with disability in the labour market." *Source: OECD*

What do technology and AI mean for the future of work in health care?
"Drawing on labour market modelling, this long read analyses what makes health care different from other industries predicted to be more heavily impacted by new technologies." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

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Primary Care

The contribution of at scale primary care to system working
"At scale providers are well-placed to contribute to key national policy ambitions set out in publications such as the Fuller Stocktake, including the development and co-ordination of integrated neighbourhood teams, increased patient access and the expansion of multidisciplinary team working." *Source: NHS Providers (UK)*

Strengthening primary and community care services - the foundation for most care and treatment
"This briefing will focus on people's experiences of access to primary and community care to support the development of a long-term vision for the NHS to strengthen these key local services." *Source: Healthwatch (UK)*

Describing the Primary Care Journey for People with Musculoskeletal Pain
"The Brief 'Describing the Primary Care Journey for People with Musculoskeletal Pain' is authored by researchers from Queensland Health, highlights the variation in patient care pathways and

experiences in primary care for the management of MSK pain and disorders, including discordance with best-practice guidelines." *Source: Deeble Institute (Australia)*

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Child, Youth, & Maternal Health

Advancing Diagnostic Excellence for Maternal Health Care
"Pregnant persons are uniquely vulnerable to diagnostic errors, with people of color and other disadvantaged minority populations facing the greatest risk. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Board on Health Care Services hosted a hybrid public workshop in July 2023 to explore challenges in achieving diagnostic excellence in maternal health care, diagnostic disparities and interventions to mitigate these disparities, and strategies to advance diagnostic excellence." *Source: National Academies Press*

Takatāpui voices on what is needed for bright futures: a Youth19 Brief
In this brief, we summarise the themes of takatāpui Māori (takatāpui, LGBTQIA+, queer, rainbow, nonbinary or questioning their gender identity) students' open-text responses in the Youth19 survey. *Source: Youth19 (New Zealand)*

Complementary Feeding Interventions for Infants and Young Children Under Age 2: Scoping of Promising Interventions to Implement at the Community or State Level
"Complementary feeding refers to the introduction of foods other than human milk or formula to an infants diet. In response to a request from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Academies Health and Medicine Division convened the Committee on Complementary Feeding Interventions for Infants and Young Children under Age 2 to conduct a consensus study scoping review of peer-reviewed literature and other publicly available information on interventions addressing complementary feeding of infants and young children." *Source: National Academies Press*

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Health Workforce

Surviving healthcare: sexism and sexual violence in the healthcare workforce
"The report is an analysis of 150 survivor stories submitted to our website since we launched in 2022. It details our findings on the incidents, factors and challenges unique to healthcare that permit sexism and sexual violence in the healthcare workforce. The report contains recommendations to healthcare organisations to better support survivors and end these behaviours." *Source: Surviving in Scrubs (UK)*

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