

Public Health Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: Tuesday 21 March 2023, 9:30am to 4:30pm

Attendees

PHAC Members: Kevin Hague (Chair), Peter Crampton, Jason Gurney, Ruth Cunningham and Beverly Te Huia

Secretariat: Jonathon Jones and Chloe Reynolds

Guests: Paul Hunt, Delia Nolan, Philippa Moran, Ben Heather, Simon Medcalf and Emma Quealey

Apologies: Sir Collin Tukuitonga, Penny Gault

Opening of meeting

1. Opening karakia by Beverly Te Huia.
2. Apologies noted for Sir Collin Tukuitonga. Lateness noted for Jason Gurney (due to flight delay, arrived 9.45am)
3. Members asked to update declarations of interest.
4. Review of 22 February 2023 minutes. Members agreed minutes were accurate and correct.

Actions:

- 22 February 2023 minutes and agenda to be published to PHAC website.

Activities since last meeting

5. Secretariat advised that additional funding had been secured for the PHAC to undertake research for its food environments work.
6. The PHAC considered a paper from the secretariat on a rights-based approach to the topic of food environments, setting out human rights relating to food and health.

7. The PHAC asked for further work on Te Tiriti o Waitangi rights, focusing on Waitangi Tribunal inquiries.

Actions:

- Secretariat to prepare a paper on Te Tiriti rights ahead of the PHAC's next meeting in April.

Human Rights Commissioner

8. Paul Hunt, Human Rights Commissioner was invited by the PHAC to present on human rights as they relate to food and health. Paul Hunt was accompanied by two colleagues Delia Nolan, Lead Advisor and Philippa Moran, Acting Senior Advisor.
9. Guests were welcomed by the chair who explained the PHAC's work on food environments and its interest in taking a rights-based approach to the topic. This was why the PHAC was interested to work with the Human Rights Commission.
10. Paul Hunt delivered remarks noting the Human Rights Commission's support for the health reforms and the role of the PHAC as an independent element in the system.
11. He also remarked on the state of human rights globally and domestically, noting the possibility for greater indigenous perspectives, such as collective and intergenerational rights.
12. The chair noted interest in working together with the Human Rights Commission on a rights framework.
13. Paul Hunt noted there were different approaches for how human rights, or a rights framework could apply.
14. The chair concluded the session by highlighting PHAC's interest in the rights-based approach that highlights government-led or system solutions, over solutions that put the burden on individuals.

PHAC Strategic Session on Food Environments – Part 1

15. Ben Heather, Principal Advisor External Communication and Engagement was introduced to the PHAC. Ben leads on communications support for the Public

Health Agency and will be available to support the PHAC with its strategic communications.

16. A short discussion was held on developing the PHAC's brand, including a Māori name for the PHAC. The PHAC's preference was to develop a new metaphorical name rather than a translation.
17. The PHAC discussed the structure of its work on food environments. A member noted that a short and readily digestible format would be beneficial.
18. The PHAC agreed to frame its advice positively and to move away from a deficit framework. They preferred a strengths-based approach that would identify what good would look like. They agreed to include case studies as real-world examples, for example lessons from localities as a source for how communities think about kai and health wellbeing.

Actions:

- Ben and secretariat to explore options for branding and Māori name for PHAC.

PHAC Strategic Session on Food Environments – Part 2

19. The PHAC discussed creating a vision for the food environments work. A member shared their experience of working with a narrative communications company, which could help the PHAC create its vision.
20. The PHAC undertook a brainstorm session to identify areas of focus for its food environments work. The PHAC identified an initial structure for its advice and generated ideas for areas of focus.
 - i. A positively framed vision
 - ii. Rights-based approach
 - iii. Connections to food
 - iv. How food is produced
 - v. How food is supplied
 - vi. Impacts on food consumption

Actions:

- Member offered to connect with narrative communications company to discuss how they could support PHAC's work on food environments.
- Secretariat to write up brainstorm session, including structure for PHAC's advice.

Pae Ora Strategies

21. The Pae Ora strategy team updated the PHAC on the strategy development and engagement process. It was noted that most of the public engagement was now complete. The group discussed how the strategy development was resonating during engagements. The vision of Pae Ora was raised and how it will be described. Topics such as models of care and moving beyond person centric care are points which have been explored.
22. The Pae Ora strategy team shared the overarching direction of the New Zealand Health Strategy. The PHAC shared specific comments on the overarching direction covering Te Tiriti o Waitangi, determinants of health, workforce and the Pae Ora principles.

Actions:

- PHAC agreed to write to the Pae Ora strategy team setting out their specific comments on the overarching direction of the New Zealand Health Strategy.

Next steps

23. PHAC agreed to commission a piece of qualitative research involving stakeholder interviews. The purpose of the research would be to identify common themes, key perspectives, and insights from stakeholders on New Zealand's food environments. The outcome will help inform the PHAC's future advice.
24. The PHAC also agreed to invite the MPI food policy team to present at their next meeting.

Actions:

- Secretariat to prepare a research proposal and commission a researcher to undertake the work.
- Secretariat to work with MPI food policy team to present at the PHAC's next meeting in April.

Next meeting

25. The next PHAC meeting will be held online on Tuesday 18 April 2023.