



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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Public Health

[The Unusual Suspects: Unlocking the Potential of the Wider Public Health Workforce](#)

“Whilst they may not work in occupations traditionally considered as being ‘public health’, they have the ability to make an impact on the health and wellbeing of local communities, and the population at large, through applying public health approaches to their work. They come from a diverse and varied set of professions and sectors and quietly, often unseen, protect our health, promote our health and prevent ill health. Over the last year, RSPH carried out engagement and research with the

wider public. health workforce to build an evidence-base and gather insight on the work they do, the challenges they face, and where we might collectively support them to further develop their skills and knowledge in this area.” *Source: Royal Society for Public Health (UK)*

[People-centred approach to tackling antimicrobial resistance: key principle of the Roadmap on antimicrobial resistance for the WHO European Region 2023–2030](#)

“A people-centred approach to tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was developed to support countries in their implementation of the recently adopted Roadmap on antimicrobial resistance for the WHO European Region 2023–2030. A people-centred approach acknowledges the central role of individuals and communities in tackling AMR, and in helping to address weaknesses and gaps in current AMR efforts. The document illustrates what a people-centred approach to AMR means, demonstrates its value, and compiles useful resources and tools for implementation.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Infodemic management: protecting people from harmful health information in emergencies](#)

“Presenting the results and impact of infodemic management (IM) carried out by WHO Regional Office for Europe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine crisis and the mpox public health emergency in the European Region, this document builds the case for increased investment in IM interventions and collaboration to further unleash the potential of this emerging field, which is an integral part of the emergency cycle.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Socio-Economic Value of Adult Immunisation Programmes](#)

“This report provides evidence for adult immunisation programmes across ten countries and four vaccines showing that adult immunisation programs offset their costs multiple times through benefits to individuals, the healthcare system, and wider society.” *Source: Office for Health Economics (UK)*

[Community Safety as a Social Determinant of Health](#)

“The National Academies Roundtable on Population Health Improvement and the Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders held a public workshop in December 2023 to explore various dimensions of community safety and violence prevention in the U.S. Speakers highlighted attributes of physical spaces and social structures that create and reinforce safer communities. Discussions also covered identity-based violence, threats to interpersonal safety, frameworks for reimagining safety, and related policy and program solutions.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Shifting towards fiscally resilient, healthy societies: finding common ground between public health and finance sectors and central banks](#)

“This is the main background paper for the WHO European Finding Common Ground initiative, which aims to develop new modelling tools for use by central banks and ministries of finance that shape fiscal and economic policies to improve health equity and well-being, while showing the co-benefits of health and health equity for fiscal stability and economic well-being. Shared priorities have been identified as mental health and inclusion of young people, ageing, unbalanced development and gender equality. The paper demonstrates the growing interest and initiatives across central banks, finance, health and public health on common policy issues, framing the opportunities for action

across these sectors. It also sets out key roles and ways of working within these sectors to enable future dialogue.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – supporting local government to do more](#)

“This briefing outlines five proposals for national policy that would allow local government in England to do more to reduce harm from tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Violence against family animals in the context of intimate partner violence](#)

“This review of Australian and international evidence reveals factoring pets into safety planning and better access to animal-inclusive crisis accommodation is critical to the safety of many victim-survivors and their children.” *Source: Australian Institute of Family Studies*

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Artificial Intelligence

[AI trends for healthcare](#)

A key difference between the use of AI in healthcare and the use of AI in other industries is where AI provides decision-making for diagnosis, prevention, prediction, prognosis, monitoring or treatment. In these cases, the AI is considered a medical device and is currently regulated as such – ‘software as a medical device (SaMD)’. This feeds into a bigger discussion of the use of AI across healthcare, for clinical and non-clinical purposes. *Source: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research*

[Benefits and risks of using artificial intelligence for pharmaceutical development and delivery](#)

“WHO recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) holds great promise for pharmaceutical development and delivery. However, AI also presents risks and ethical challenges that must be addressed if societies, health systems and individuals are to fully reap its benefits. This discussion paper examines the expanding application of AI to each step of development and deployment of medicines and vaccines. AI is already used in most steps of pharmaceutical development, and, in the future, it is likely that nearly all pharmaceutical products that come to market will have been “touched” by AI at some point in their development, approval or marketing. Although these uses of AI may have a commercial benefit, it is imperative that use of AI also has public health benefit and appropriate governance.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[AI innovation concentration and the governance challenge](#)

“In this paper, the author examines the concentration of AI innovation and considers factors in the regulatory environment that may support or hinder its responsible diffusion in line with applicable international norms. The paper aims to add to the literature on AI innovation and its diffusion by delivering analysis drawing on a unique combination of firm-level data sources and policy indicators.” *Source: Centre for International Governance Innovation*

[Machine Learning and gene editing at the helm of a societal evolution](#)

“The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and biotechnology, whilst in its infancy, presents significant opportunities and risks, and proactive policy is needed to manage these emerging technologies... This report is intended for policymakers to prompt reflection on how to best

approach the convergence of the two technologies. Technical practitioners may also find it valuable as a resource to consider the type of information and policy stakeholders engage with.” *Source: RAND*

[Synthetic politics: preparing democracy for Generative AI](#)

“This report, produced in partnership with University College London, explores how synthetic content produced by generative AI poses risks to the core democratic values of truth, equality, and non-violence. It proposes two action plans for what private and public decision-makers should be doing to safeguard democratic integrity immediately and in the long run.” *Source: Demos (UK)*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Umbrella Wellbeing Report 2024: Mental Safety at Work](#)

“In this report, we group psychological and psychosocial safety together as “mental safety”. Mental safety forms the solid grounding for any successful organisational approach to psychological health and safety. Why? Because it represents a value-led commitment to prevent harm and maximise worker participation, rather than being driven by top-down legal compliance alone. This ensures that efforts to fulfil this commitment are sustainable, authentic, and effective.” *Source: Umbrella (New Zealand)*

[Measuring the prevalence of mental health conditions and problematic substance use to advance Hauora Māori: Findings from a scoping review](#)

“The aim of this report is to provide an evidence base from which to move beyond psychiatric epidemiological studies that are embedded in European and North American paradigms, to inform the broader mental health conditions and problematic substance use prevalence and impact to advance hauora Māori.” *Source: Te Pou (New Zealand)*

[Shifts in seclusion practices for Māori communities](#)

“This report is the result of collaboration between Te Pou and Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality and Safety Commission. It examines the impact of taking a cultural-clinical approach to reducing eliminating seclusion for Māori. This information is for the mental health and addiction workforce, particularly those actively involved in eliminating the use of seclusion.” *Source: Te Pou & Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality and Safety Commission*

[Least restrictive practice evidence update March 2024 – Aggression](#)

“This brief evidence update focuses on the prevention of aggression in mental health and addiction settings. This information is for the mental health and addiction workforce, particularly those actively involved in eliminating the use of seclusion.” *Source: Te Pou*

[The current landscape of the delivery and evaluation of student mental health interventions](#)

“This report presents the perspectives of practitioners and stakeholders involved in the delivery and evaluation of student mental health interventions in the UK. Drawing on a qualitative study of 40 interviews, the report considers the underlying resources, assumptions and relationships that shape a mental health intervention in a higher education setting. The report draws parallels between the

challenges of implementation and those of evaluation, suggesting that a holistic approach might help remove the current barriers faced by students in receiving appropriate and timely mental health support.” *Source: TASO (UK)*

[World Happiness Report 2024](#)

“In this issue of the World Happiness Report [the authors] focus on the happiness of people at different stages of life. In the seven ages of man in Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, the later stages of life are portrayed as deeply depressing. But happiness research shows a more nuanced picture, and one that is changing over time.” *Source: Wellbeing Research Centre*

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Communicable Disease

[Investing to defeat meningitis and beyond](#)

“Defeating Meningitis by 2030 – A Global Road Map sets out a plan to tackle the main causes of acute bacterial meningitis. This innovative initiative addresses meningitis not only as an infectious disease that can often be prevented and treated, but also with the absolute need for support and care for people living with disabling sequelae after an episode of meningitis. To defeat meningitis resources are required at all levels. The financing needs to implement the road map have been calculated and categorized to maximize the effect of every dollar invested.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Risk communication and community engagement readiness and response toolkit: mpox](#)

“This toolkit is a comprehensive set of practical tools and resources designed to support country-level risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) practitioners, decision-makers, and partners to plan and implement readiness and response activities for mpox (previously known as monkeypox). The toolkit contains: information about mpox; RCCE considerations for how to approach key issues during mpox outbreaks; tools for understanding the context in which mpox outbreaks occur; methods for collecting data to inform strategy development and bring evidence into planning and implementation of activities; case studies; and links to existing RCCE tools and training. It is one of a suite of toolkits on RCCE readiness and response to a range of disease and response areas.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Community conversation kit: everyday conversations to protect community health against infectious disease](#)

“This Community Conversation Kit (CCK) is designed to help people who have a leadership role speak with people in their community about how to protect themselves and those they care about from becoming ill with an infectious disease. This kit will help lead conversations that get people talking with each other and thinking differently about their health so they can take action. Using some simple tips and suggestions, the information in this kit will allow communities to exchange practical information that will help them know how to confidently protect their health.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Pandemic influenza preparedness framework: partnership contribution high-level implementation plan III 2024-2030: monitoring and evaluation framework](#)

“The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework's Partnership Contribution (PC) High-Level Implementation Plan III (HLIP III) outlines the strategy for strengthening global pandemic influenza preparedness from 2024 to 2030. HLIP III takes into consideration the lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the gains made over time, including from previous HLIPs, and the broader programmatic and policy context in order to address gaps in pandemic influenza preparedness. The HLIP III Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework serves as an integral companion to the implementation plan. It facilitates technical implementation and monitoring by teams across the three levels of the Organization, and provides a reference guide for all beneficiaries and stakeholders to understand how progress is measured against the HLIP III results hierarchy.”

Source: World Health Organization

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Quality & Safety

[Patient safety rights charter](#)

“The Patient safety rights charter is a key resource intended to support the implementation of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030: Towards eliminating avoidable harm in health care. The Charter aims to outline patients’ rights in the context of safety and promotes the upholding of these rights, as established by international human rights standards, for everyone, everywhere, at all times.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Excellence through equality: anti-racism as a quality improvement tool](#)

To address persistent racialised health inequalities, it is imperative to embed anti-racism within the operations of the NHS... efforts to combat racism should be community-driven, with management empowering commissioning teams to lead interventions that guarantee adequate resources to address the needs of the population they serve. Also important are collaborations with clinical leaders to facilitate shared data and knowledge, to understand referral pathways, and to engage participants, (both staff and patients) in the process.” *Source: NHS Confederation*

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Primary Care

[Finger on the Pulse: The State of Primary Care in the U.S. and Nine Other Countries](#)

“To better understand how patient care can be improved in a changing primary care landscape, this brief compares the state of primary care in the United States with nine other high-income nations. It updates an earlier Commonwealth Fund study comparing primary care performance in the U.S. with nine peer countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.” *Source: Commonwealth Fund (UK)*

[A primary care funding model to address health inequalities: A case study from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland](#)

“This case study describes Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) CCGs’ model for primary care funding, developed in 2020/21, to ensure better alignment of primary care funding with population need.” *Source: Healthcare Financial Management Association (UK)*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

[Close enough to care: A new structure for the English health and care system](#)

“Close Enough to Care shows how the current model, despite the move to integrated care systems, cannot deliver the NHS’s own stated vision of a service that prioritises community-based care and reduces reliance on hospitals.” *Source: Reform (UK)*

[The challenges and potential of intermediate care](#)

“Expanding intermediate care services could prevent hospital admissions and help people in hospital move into more appropriate settings. As such, policymakers are looking to intermediate care services to play a key role in recovering urgent and emergency care service performance... To ensure intermediate care meets the needs of recipients and the health care system, we need to understand how services are currently delivered. In this long read, we explain what intermediate care is and why it is important.” *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

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Research & Technology

[Making the future a reality: harnessing the potential of patient-facing tech in healthcare](#)

“Technology is advancing at a fast pace and holds significant promise for the future of healthcare and the NHS, with the potential to enhance productivity through cost, resource and time efficiencies. Yet there is a gap in practical guidance for healthcare stakeholders on how best to take this agenda forward, and what key roles are required. Systems are now in a place where people can take a large-scale view and make connections across the system to advance the technology agenda. To support them, the NHS Confederation and Google Health have developed this guide.” *Source: NHS Confederation (UK)*

[Incorporating Integrated Diagnostics into Precision Oncology Care](#)

“The convergence of imaging, pathology, and laboratory testing data, augmented with information technology, is referred to as integrated diagnostics. To examine the current state of the science and strategies to facilitate precision cancer care through integrated diagnostics, the National Academies National Cancer Policy Forum hosted a public workshop in collaboration with the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board and the Board on Human-Systems Integration.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[Genomics costing tool](#)

“The first edition of the genomics costing tool (GCT) facilitates budgeting and resource mobilization for infrastructure, workforce, biosafety and quality assurance associated with SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance. This tool will be useful to country, regional and global policymakers, health administrators and economists, laboratory directors, quality managers, donor institutions and other stakeholders engaged in genomic surveillance for priority pathogens. The GCT is a Microsoft Excel-based tool which is accompanied by a user manual to guide its users.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[**Incorporating the Patient Voice in Health Technology Assessment**](#)

“The decision to adopt or not adopt a new healthcare technology, and the process by which this decision is made, affects patients, the health system, and wider society. In this Whitepaper, we suggest that the patient perspective is critical to making fully-informed decisions about the value of new technologies, but this perspective has not always been given the same weight as clinical and economic aspects in health technology assessment (HTA).” *Source: Office for Health Economics (UK)*

[**Strategy for optimizing national routine health information systems: strengthening routine health information systems to deliver primary health care and universal health coverage**](#)

“The Strategy for optimising national RHIS is part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) SCORE (Survey, Count, Optimize, Review, Enable) for Health Data Technical Package to strengthen country health data systems and capacity to generate and use the information for health service management and monitoring of national and global targets. This strategy sets out to optimize RHIS and outlines a vision, supported by strategic goals, guiding principles, specific objectives and key interventions to improve health data collection, reporting, analyses and use at national, subnational (all levels below the national level including and not limited to public, private, nongovernmental) and community levels.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[**Not just algorithms: assuring user safety online with systemic regulatory frameworks**](#)

“Many of the systems and elements that platforms build into their products create safety risks for end-users. However, only a very modest selection have been identified for regulatory scrutiny. As the government reviews the Basic Online Safety Expectations and Online Safety Act, the role of all systems and elements in creating risks need to be comprehensively addressed. This report explores the role of four systems (recommender systems, content moderation systems, ad approval systems and ad management systems) in creating risks around eating disorders.” *Source: Reset Australia*

[**Charting a Future for Sequencing RNA and Its Modifications: A New Era for Biology and Medicine**](#)

“Charting a Future for Sequencing RNA and Its Modifications: A New Era for Biology and Medicine calls for a focused, large-scale effort to accelerate technological innovation to harness the full potential of RNA modifications to address pressing societal challenges in health, agriculture, and beyond. This report assesses the scientific and technological breakthroughs, workforce, and infrastructure needs to sequence RNA and its modifications, and ultimately understand the roles RNA modifications play in biological processes and disease. It proposes a roadmap of innovation that will make it possible for any RNA from any biological system to be sequenced end-to-end with all of its modifications - a capability that could lead to more personalized and targeted treatments and instigate transformative changes across various sectors beyond health and medicine.” *Source: National Academies Press*

[**Telehealth quality of care tool**](#)

“This first version of the Telehealth quality of care tool (TQoCT) is intended to be used by Member States (namely by focal points for patient safety and quality of care (QoC) and all other relevant parties of national telehealth ecosystems) or by individual health-care provider organizations. As more health and care moves to digital-based service provision, including the use of digital tools for supporting health interventions and care services provided at a distance, the quality of the care that is provided becomes more relevant. The quality of telehealth ultimately matters for increasing the

adoption of this new paradigm of care because significant patient safety or QoC issues will ultimately undermine the trust populations and professionals have on this still somehow new way of practicing medicine and supporting the provision of modern and integrated care.” *Source: World Health Organization*

[Advancing Clinical Research with Pregnant and Lactating Populations: Overcoming Real and Perceived Liability Risks](#)

“Congress called on the National Academies to convene a committee to examine the real and perceived risks of liability arising from research conducted with pregnant and lactating women. The resulting report, *Clinical Research with Pregnant and Lactating Populations: Overcoming Real and Perceived Liability Risks*, explores and finds limited evidence of legal liability for inclusion of pregnant and lactating women in clinical research, contradicting perceptions of heightened liability. The committee also makes recommendations that could lead to a more robust evidence base about the safety and efficacy of medications for pregnant and lactating women that would facilitate more informed decision making regarding care while mitigating liability.” *Source: National Academies Press*

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Disability

[How do we get autism support right in Aotearoa New Zealand?](#)

“Based on international approaches and current community engagement, this project aimed to gain perspectives from autistic people, parents, professionals and family/whānau members to: 1. understand the nature of existing supports for autistic people, and 2. provide suggestions for future approaches to autism support. Findings from the project include recommendations for implementation of the current Guideline as well as other approaches to ensure inclusion and the provision of supports for autistic people in Aotearoa.” *Source: AutismCRC (New Zealand)*

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Health of Older People

[How community providers, alongside wider system partners, can support people living with frailty](#)

“This briefing highlights the benefits of supporting people with frailty in the community at every stage of the frailty care pathway, while considering the risks to be managed. It shares examples of good practice, and explores some of the barriers to further progress, looking at what can be done to address these and ensure people with frailty receive the right care at the right time in the right place.” *Source: NHSProviders (UK)*

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Climate Change

[Ensuring safety and health at work in a changing climate](#)

“Climate change is already having serious impacts on the safety and health of workers in all regions of the world. Workers are among those most exposed to climate change hazards yet frequently have no choice but to continue working, even if conditions are dangerous. Global occupational safety and health (OSH) protections have struggled to keep up with the evolving risks from climate change, resulting in worker mortality and morbidity. This report presents critical evidence related to the impacts of climate change on OSH, to bring attention to the global health threat workers are currently facing.” *Source: International Labour Organisation*

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Policy & Government

[Putting analysis and assessment at the heart of government](#)

“Although there have been real improvements in analysis capabilities, structures and processes since 2020 in particular, more could still be done to improve the use of analysis and assessment in decision-making. Present arrangements developed organically - now is a good opportunity to harness the current momentum and think more strategically about what is required.” *Source: Institute for Government (UK)*

[Lived experience in policymaking guide](#)

“Lived experience is an important part of policy-making, because it helps us to root policy decisions in real life experiences, ensuring a diversity of perspectives are considered and allowing for new ideas to emerge. However, it is important to get this work right or it can be or feel extractive. This short guide aims to draw out the principles, behaviours and mindsets that underpin lived experience work.” *Source: Policy Lab (UK)*

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