

# Public Health Advisory Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

**Meeting:** Monday 14 August, 9:30am to 4:30pm

**Location/platform:** Online via Zoom.

**Attendees:**

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

Secretariat: Jonathon Jones and Chloe Reynolds.

Guests: Sidd Mehta and Michelle Mako, Public Health Agency; Danielle Griffioen, Te Aka Whai Ora; Rauno Engel, Deloitte; Bernard Te Paa and Cheree Shortland-Nuku, Māori Health Directorate, Manatū Hauora; Sarah Andrews and Sarah Appleton, Synergia.

Apologies: None.

### Opening of meeting

1. Opening karakia by Beverly Te Huia.
2. Members were asked to update the interest register. No new interests were declared.
3. Members agreed the minutes of the 17 July 2023 meeting were accurate and correct.
4. The PHAC secretariat and chair updated on key activities undertaken since the last meeting.
5. On 21 July 2023, the PHAC chair had a regular post meeting phone call with the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall. The focus of the meeting was the PHAC's forward work programme. The Minister noted her support for the PHAC developing a position statement on equity, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori health. She also noted her support for the PHAC's next major project to be a benchmarking project on the determinants of health. She also supported the

PHAC's plans to focus on climate change as a major topic in subsequent years.

6. The PHAC discussed engagement with the Minister of Health post-election and noted that the Ministry of Health is preparing a Briefing for Incoming Ministers and that committee would be featured in that. The PHAC noted that it would seek an early meeting with Minister of Health post-election.
7. On 7 August 2023, The Workshop delivered a two-hour data sense making session attended by Kevin Hague, Ruth Cunningham, Jason Gurney, PHAC secretariat and Sidd Mehta from the Public Health Agency (PHA). The session explored how data can be used to help shift narratives and four areas were identified for the PHAC's work: land use, distribution and access of food, consumer, and outcomes.
8. On 25 July 2023, the chair was a panel member of a webinar with Sophie Howe, the first Future Generations Commissioner of Wales. This was hosted by the health in all policies team in Te Whatu Ora. Described as "the World's First Minister for the Unborn", Sophie Howe was the first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, the only role of its kind in the world. She held the UK Government to account on how their decisions affect future generations, securing policy transformation on climate change, education and social justice and influencing other countries to follow suit. This included advising on governance for future generations at the UN level.
9. The PHAC chair asked Sophie how she was able to maintain political constituency to be able to continue her work and she noted the longer parliamentary term in the UK of 5 years. He also reflected that a core achievement of this role was strong intersectoral collaboration to bring about whole of system change. He noted he had started a conversation about intersectoral collaboration with the Public Service Commissioner.
10. On 26 July 2023, the PHAC secretariat attended a workshop of the Food Environments Steering Group, a cross-health entity group convened by the PHA of those working in the food environments space. Participants included: Te Whatu Ora (including National Public Health Service and Healthy Families), Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Aho o Te Kahu. The purpose of this workshop was for health entities to develop a shared vision and work programme.

**Actions:**

- 17 July 2023 minutes and agenda to be published to PHAC website.
- PHAC chair to seek an early meeting with the Minister of Health post-election.

**Food Environments – Data and Insights report**

11. Sidd Mehta, Principal Advisor, Public Health Evaluation and Impact, delivered a presentation providing an update on a data and insights report on food environments. Rauno Engel was also in attendance, a data analyst from Deloitte who is supporting Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora with the diabetes action plan.
12. Sidd explained that the insights report would be exploratory analysis and the PHAC could seek to further build on the insights. He noted that there were various frameworks for food systems, including those that support health and sustainable or planetary health and align with the UN sustainable development goals.
13. He then took the PHAC through key data areas of the report, including land-use, price and cost, purchasing access gap (hardship grants and income), density of food outlets (good and bad) and health indicators/outcomes (tooth decay in children, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease).
14. For land-use, the report highlighted the foods produced in New Zealand and what is imported and exported. Definitions are also important as part of this work; being clear about origin or reference for a definition, for example processed and ultra-processed foods. A PHAC member asked to include insights from the Growing up in New Zealand study. Another member asked about geographical mapping and if this could be used to highlight Māori kai indicators. It was noted that there was qualitative research that could be drawn on also for Māori insights. A member also shared a series of specific comments to be included be considered for the insights report.

**Actions:**

- PHA to update the insights report based on feedback from PHAC members.

**PHAC Position Statements on Equity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

15. The PHAC invited Cheree Shortland-Nuku, Group Manager Māori Health Strategy and Policy and Bernard Te Paa, Group Manager Māori Crown

Relations and Michelle Mako, Director Hauora Māori, Public Health Agency to discuss its plans to issue a position statement on equity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

16. The PHAC explained that the statement would set out its position as an independent advisory committee and that it would act as a contribution when issues arose about equity and Māori health outcomes.
17. The format of the statement is intended to be short, about 3 pages with a focus on the relationship between Te Tiriti o Waitangi and public health, why equity of outcomes is important, and the solutions to get there, based on strong evidence and data. The PHAC would like it to be released next month, September 2023.
18. In response, the Māori Health Directorate outlined similar work they have completed on anti-racism, developing a Te Tiriti o Waitangi Framework and mana statements. They acknowledged the strategic value of a statement proposed by the PHAC and that it would add important value as system signalling. They also explained how they work to deliver on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, working closely with Iwi and to gather a strong evidence base to improve outcomes.
19. Michelle Mako noted that the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 is grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and there had been substantial engagement and work with Māori for much of the work that Manatū Hauora had already delivered.
20. The Māori Health Directorate recommended that the PHAC have a good communications plan alongside the statement's release and noted the strong communications plan that accompanied the release of the recent Hauora Māori Advisory Committee's report on Te Aka Whai Ora progress against Cabinet expectations, commitments and priorities.

**Actions:**

- PHAC chair agreed to set out draft structure for the statement.
- Jason Gurney agreed to produce a first draft of the statement.
- PHAC members would provide comments on the statement over email.
- PHAC secretariat to develop a communications plan for the release of the statement.

**Food Environments – Narrative framing and key themes**

21. The PHAC considered decisions around how it would frame its advice on food environments based on The Workshop's report on how to shift narratives and mindsets. They also considered the key themes that emerged from the Synergia research of stakeholder interviews.
22. The PHAC decided it would take a narrative shift approach to its advice on food environments. They considered the dominant narratives in the food system, namely consumerism and modernism. Their preference was to refer to rebalancing the food system in New Zealand towards health and wellbeing.
23. This could involve changing goals without changing the structural arrangements, through talking about the system and what a good system looks like. The rebalance could be part of looking back at how things were done in the past or reclaiming something, especially in a Te Ao Māori context.
24. The PHAC considered the type of data or evidence required to explain the shift in narratives. A PHAC member suggested using attributable fractions in relation to data and import and export data relating to food production in New Zealand. It was also suggested that a figure could be determined for how many fruits and vegetables New Zealanders need.
25. The PHAC discussed the key themes that emerged from the stakeholder interviews, these were: local food systems, healthy food in educational settings, community leadership, links to schools and public services, and national/government-led direction. The PHAC considered that a theme focused on children could be helpful.

**Actions:**

- PHAC members to feed into secretariat any data indicators they would like to have included as part of the narrative shift.

**Food Environments – Update on stakeholder engagement workshops**

26. The secretariat provided an update on planning for the stakeholder workshops on food environments in September.
27. The purpose of the workshops is three-fold:
  - a. clarify vision and values relating to food environments
  - b. test the PHAC's thinking around the shifting narrative approach and rights-based approach

- c. explore the solutions and push for new thinking and ideas, which are feasible.
28. The secretariat recommended 2 workshops, an in-person workshop held in Wellington on Monday 18 September given the majority of stakeholders are based in Wellington, and an online workshop Wednesday 20 September to cater for those not able to travel. It was recommended the workshops last 3.5 hours from 9:00am to 12:30pm.
  29. The secretariat are still exploring options for a facilitator for the workshops.

**Actions:**

- The PHAC agreed to the purpose and that there would be two workshops on the dates recommended.
- Secretariat to choose facilitator and inform PHAC.

### **Synergia report on stakeholder insights**

30. Sarah Andrews and Sarah Appleton from Synergia attended the PHAC meeting to seek feedback on the draft report of the qualitative stakeholder interviews research.
31. Sarah began by giving an overview of the report and its structure noting the strong focus around what happens in communities and that there was a lot already happening, so there isn't a need to start from scratch in this space.
32. The PHAC chair asked about fiscal measures. It was noted that poverty had a big impact and if this was addressed then those in hardship would have greater choices. A member noted that food is often left to market forces and that most people fend for themselves in the marketplace. It was also noted that issues relating to advertising did not feature in the responses.
33. A member requested that the graph setting out the aspirations of interviewees not be presented in a word bubble as these aspirations only reflect those interviewed and may not reflect wider perspectives.
34. Educational settings were raised by a number of interviewees as a logical intervention point for supporting young people in relation to food and their wellbeing.

35. Synergia agreed that it would tighten the report and expand the executive summary with the key themes.
36. On the stakeholder workshops it was discussed that these should be used to find areas of consensus amongst stakeholders. Synergia noted that the majority of stakeholders it had worked with were enthusiastic and willing to support the work of the PHAC.

**Actions:**

- Secretariat to invite the Ministry of Education to the workshops in September.
- Synergia to reformat the aspirations diagram and clearer actions and who supported them.
- PHAC members to provide any further feedback on draft report by 18 August 2023.

**Next steps**

37. The secretariat noted that an invite would follow for the PHAC to attend a webinar on the methodology for a future national nutritional survey, hosted by Manatū Hauora and The University of Auckland.
38. The PHAC discussed the importance of a facilitator for the workshops that could balance competing views and work to find consensus.

**Actions:**

- It was agreed that the secretariat would identify a preferred facilitator for the stakeholder workshops.

**Next meeting**

39. The next PHAC meeting will be held in-person on 18 September 2023 in Wellington.
40. This will be a shorter meeting as it will be the same day as the in-person workshop.
41. Closing karakia by Beverley Te Huia.