

Public Health Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: Monday 18 September, 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

Location/platform: Held in-person at Ministry of Health, Wellington and via Zoom.

Attendees:

PHAC Members: In-person – Professor Peter Crampton, Beverly Te Huia, and Associate Professor Ruth Cunningham.

Online – Kevin Hague (Chair), Associate Professor Jason Gurney and Sir Collin Tukuitonga.

Secretariat: Jonathon Jones and Chloe Reynolds.

Guests: None.

Apologies: None.

Opening of meeting

Note: this meeting was shorter due to the PHAC undertaking a half-day stakeholder workshop the morning of 18 September in Wellington. Kevin, Collin and Jason were not able to travel to Wellington for the in-person workshop or the PHAC meeting due to bad weather across the North Island.

1. Opening karakia by Kevin Hague.
2. Members were asked to update the interest register. Jason emailed his changes to the secretariat. Members were also asked to notify the secretariat of any updates to their profiles on the PHAC website. No updates were required.
3. The PHAC agreed that the minutes of 14 August 2023 were accurate and correct.

Action:

- 14 August 2023 minutes and agenda to be published to PHAC website.

Activities since last meeting

4. Collin, Ruth, and Peter shared their reflections from the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting held on 11 and 12 September 2023. Topics covered included constitutional change, climate change, and cultural safety. Members agreed to work closely with the College as it proceeds with its work programme.
5. Secretariat reported on advice received from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in response to a question about the global trade system and the price of food in New Zealand.
6. The chair noted that successive New Zealand governments have supported free trade policies. He also pointed to local industry social responsibility initiatives in New Zealand, that sit alongside economic drivers, such as the Meat the Need charity.
7. The secretariat provided an update on a meeting with Manatū Hauora's Māori Health Directorate about data and reporting. It was noted that they are developing an approach to monitoring the implementation of the Pae Ora strategies and the Government Policy Statement. They will also be working across the health system in their capacity as system stewards.
8. The secretariat reported on the presentation by The University of Auckland and Massey University Wellington on the tools and methodology for a nutrition survey in Aotearoa and their recommendations for a future national survey.
9. The PHAC discussed its work on their position statement on equity, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori health. The PHAC had finalised the statement since its last meeting and considered timing and media plan for publishing the statement.

Action:

- PHAC agreed to publish their statement on equity, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Māori health that week and to reach out to key contacts to share the statement.

Debrief from stakeholder workshop

10. The first of two stakeholder workshops was held in the morning before the PHAC meeting. Ruth stood in for Kevin to deliver opening remarks. Ruth, Beverley, and Peter provided their reflections from the workshop. They noted

that there was a range of stakeholders present, including central government officials, industry representatives and those in the non-government sector but there was limited Māori representation.

11. The workshop culminated in participants identifying six priority actions across three levels – nationally led, community led and personal, these were:
 - i. improving systems to support people to grow their own food
 - ii. using educational settings as a place to improve understanding of healthy food and to provide healthy meals
 - iii. addressing the cost of food so that people have better access to food
 - iv. improving the regulatory settings that impact peoples purchasing options, such as advertising restrictions
 - v. improved surveillance and data, including a national nutrition survey and community voice
 - vi. greater central coordination through, for example, the creation of a national food agency

12. The PHAC discussed lessons to apply in the online workshop scheduled for 20 September. They agreed to be less prescriptive in the breakout sessions to allow more space for new ideas, and for each PHAC member to follow through the breakout session on a single theme.

Action:

- Secretariat to amend the design of the online workshop as above.

Planning for final report

13. The PHAC discussed planning for producing the final report of its advice on food environments. The chair noted that the basic structure had been identified through working with The Workshop and Synergia and that there is already a lot of content to inform their advice. PHAC discussed developing a process of peer review.

Action:

- Secretariat to develop a timeline for delivery of the PHAC's report on food environments.
- Secretariat to present a proposed structure for the report at the PHAC's next meeting on 9 October 2023.
- PHAC agreed to develop a process of external peer review ahead of delivering their advice.

Next steps

14. PHAC members will participate in the half-day online workshop on 20 September. Collin sent apologies for that workshop.

Next meeting

15. The next PHAC meeting will be held online on Monday 9 October 2023.