

THE SIXTH MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO THE MINISTER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GISBORNE CERVICAL SCREENING INQUIRY REPORT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. In response to recommendation 46 of the Inquiry Report, the Director General will supply monthly reports to the Minister. This is the sixth of these monthly reports. A summary report on progress over the first 6 months is currently being prepared and will be provided in advance of Dr McGoogan's visit in October/November.

COMMENT

Evaluation of the National Cervical Screening Programme

2. The University of Otago's Report on the Evaluation of the Follow-up and Treatment of Women with Abnormal Screening Histories (Part 2 of the National Evaluation) has been finalised. (Recommendations 1 & 3)
3. The Cancer Audit (Part 3 of the National Evaluation) project team has completed its draft report on Phase 1 of the project for delivery to Dr McGoogan. Further discussions with the University of Otago are scheduled for later in October in an attempt to progress negotiation over their input to the next phases of the Audit. An application to ethics committees has not yet progressed and the project is now experiencing some delay. (Recommendations 1 & 3)
4. The second Independent Monitoring Group's National Cervical Screening Programme quarterly monitoring report (covering the period January 2001 to March 2001) will be released in October 2001. (Recommendation 4)

Changes to Legislation

5. Instructions have been issued to Parliamentary Counsel Office for drafting of amendments to Section 74A of the Health Act 1956 to enable the effective monitoring, audit and evaluation of the NCSP. [CAB Min (01) 27/17 refers]. (Recommendations 14, 16, 17)
6. A meeting was held with the National Kaitiaki Group on 7 September 2001 to discuss the review of the Kaitiaki Regulations. It was agreed that officials would draft a discussion document in preparation for further consultation. The discussion document is planned for release in February 2002 to be followed by 10 regional Hui. (Recommendation 15)

7. A draft cabinet paper has been prepared regarding proposed amendments to the Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulations 1989 for consultation with interested agencies in October 2001. (Recommendation 29)
8. Drafting instructions have also been issued for amendments to the Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994 to, amongst other things, place a legal obligation on the Health and Disability Commissioner to share information with registration bodies, ACC, and the Director General of Health, during an investigation, where there is a risk of harm from the practice of a health professional or systemic or organisational practice or where there are likely to be compensation issues [CAB Min (01) 25/2 refers]. (Recommendation 34)
9. Royal assent was received for the Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation Bill in Mid September 2001. This legislation includes legal obligations on ACC to share information on medical misadventure claims with the Health and Disability Commissioner, registration bodies, employers, and the Director-General of Health.

Ethics Committees

10. Officials have been working with representatives of the Health Research Council, the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, regional ethics committees and university ethics committees to finalise the revised operational standard for ethics committees. It is now anticipated that this will be published 31 October 2001. (Recommendation 18 & 20)

NCSP Operations

11. A draft Project Plan has been prepared for the review of the NCSP Interim Standards and development of standards for laboratory coding. A working group will need to be established to review the Bethesda and Snomed codes currently in use. (Recommendation 27 & 32)
12. Research into the current performance standards for both NCSP-Register and the Cancer Registry is currently being carried out prior to the scoping of further work. (Recommendation 26)
13. The use of the National Health Index as a Population Register is currently being examined along with research on international models for population registers. The NSU is also currently working on the development of policies governing the use of such registers for the NCSP and breast screening programme. (Recommendation 33)
14. The Workforce Development Project workforce survey has been distributed and responses received from the majority of laboratories. Discussions with Central Training Agency, colleges, professional bodies, training and education providers, and laboratories. The project is on track to deliver its Workforce Development Strategy document in December 2001. (28, 40, 41 & 44)
15. Women's Health Action (WHA) has produced a first draft of the detailed brochure for women in accordance with the agreed revised schedule. The NSU

is currently reviewing the draft prior to further consultation and consumer testing. (Recommendation 38)

16. A letter has been drafted for sending to smear-takers reminding them that cervical smear tests are not a means of diagnosing cervical cancer. (Recommendation 39)

Dr McGoogan's Visit

17. A schedule has been prepared for Dr Euphemia McGoogan's 10 day visit to NZ. Dr McGoogan's visit will culminate in a visit to Gisborne on 8th November 2001. Further detailed briefings will be provided over the coming weeks.

APPENDIX 1.0

TABLE 1.0: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETE

	Status	Recommendations	Total Number
1.	Complete	4, 9,10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 37	8
2.	Underway	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46	37

TABLE 2.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRESS AGAINST REPORTING MILESTONES FOR 10 SEPTEMBER TO 10 OCTOBER 2001

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 September to 10 October 2001	Milestone Achieved
1.	Evaluation of NCSP – Part 2 Part 3 (Cancer Audit).	Complete	Report by University of Otago finalised.	✓
		Underway	Data matching exercise NCSP-R and Cancer Registry completed.	✓
2.	Re-enrolment and re-screening of women.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
3.	Cox's 1997 comprehensive evaluation of the NCSP should be commenced within 18 months.	Underway	Parts 5, 6 and 8 included within the scope of Part 3 (Cancer Audit) – see recommendation 1 above. No Reporting Milestone this period. Parts 4, 7 and 10 included within scope of NCSP Statistical Reporting. Refer to recommendation 7 below.	
4.	Implementation of Operational Policy and Quality Standards & Evaluation & Monitoring Plan.	Underway	Further project work to take place with regard to implementation of standards for Smear-Takers. Second Independent Monitoring Group NCSP quarterly monitoring report preparation behind schedule.	x
5.	Full legal assessment of Operational Policy and Quality Standards.	Underway	Documentation review ongoing Draft report due November 2001.	
6.	Legal assessment of NCSP Authority.	Underway	Documentation review ongoing Draft report due November 2001.	
7.	Statistical Reporting.	Underway	Milestone Delayed.	x

¹ Reporting Milestones refer to those tasks and activities that need to be completed in the period covered by the report, against which progress on the implementation of the recommendations is measured.

Those recommendations and their Reporting Milestones marked Current Practice will not be reported in subsequent reports, as they have already been implemented.

Recommendations where there is no Reporting Milestone against which to report for this month are marked No Reporting Milestone this period; work may however be already underway.

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 September to 10 October 2001	Milestone Achieved
			Peer Review ongoing.	
8.	Regular Statistical Information.	Underway	Request for proposal from University of Otago	✓
9.	Minimum Standards for Cytology Laboratories.	Complete	DHB and Community Laboratory Agreements incorporate minimum volume standards.	✓
14.	Amend S74 of the Health Act 1956.	Underway	Cabinet approval for proposed amendments. PCO instructed to commence drafting.	✓
15.	Kaitiaki Regulations.	Underway	Work on draft discussion document underway.	✓
16.	Legal right to access information from the Cancer Register.	Underway	Cabinet approval for proposed amendments. PCO instructed to commence drafting.	✓
17.	Amend Health Act 1956 to enable access to medical files.	Underway	Cabinet approval for proposed amendments. PCO instructed to commence drafting.	✓
18.	Change guidelines under-which ethics committees operate.	Underway	The expected completion date for work on this milestone is now 1 November 2001	
19.	Review of operations of ethics committees.	Underway	Work to be undertaken by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (The National Ethics Committee).	
20.	Provide guidelines to ethics committees regarding Privacy Act & Code.	Complete	The expected completion date for work on this milestone is now 1 November 2001	
21.	Guidelines to ethics committees for observational studies.	Underway	Work to be undertaken by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (The National Ethics Committee).	
22.	National ethics committee.	Underway	A briefing on options for a national ethics committee provided to Minister.	✓
23.	Appeal process for ethics committee decisions.	Underway	Work to be undertaken by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (The National Ethics	

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 September to 10 October 2001	Milestone Achieved
			Committee).	
24.	NCSP Complaints System.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
25.	Electronic Link Cancer Register & NCSP Register.	Underway	Preliminary Investigations completed	✓
26.	Performance Standards for NCSP Register and Cancer Register.	Underway	Preliminary discussions held. Research is being carried out on current standards and scoping of further work.	✓
27.	Standards for the NCSP should be reviewed every two years.	Underway	Project Plan developed	✓
28.	The Government must ensure sufficient cytotechnologists and cytopathologists and training sites.	Underway	Workforce survey distributed and majority of responses received.	✓
29.	Amend Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulations 1989.	Underway	Draft cabinet paper prepared.	✓
30.	Impose Legal obligations on storage of slides.	Underway	Cabinet approval for proposed amendments. PCO instructed to commence drafting.	✓
31.	Ensure electronic linkage between NCSP Register and Cytology Labs.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period. This requirement will form part of the National Screening Units development of an Information Systems Strategy.	
32.	Develop Standards for accuracy of laboratory coding.	Underway	Standards will be developed in line with review of Policy and Quality Standards – refer to Recommendation 27.	✓
33.	The NCSP should develop a population-based register.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period. The National Screening Unit is represented on the Ministry's Population Register Project led by Personal & Family Health Directorate. The National Screening Unit is developing policy for the utilisation of a population-based register for screening programmes.	

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones¹ for 10 September to 10 October 2001	Milestone Achieved
34.	Legal mechanisms should be in place to allow the ACC, Medical Council and the Health & Disability Commissioner to share relevant information with the Ministry's NCSP.	Underway	Instructions issued to PCO for drafting of legislation.	✓
35.	Medical Tribunal to supply information to NCSP.	Underway	Instructions issued to PCO for drafting of legislation.	✓
36.	ACC & Medical Council should exchange relevant information regarding claims for medical misadventure.	Underway	Royal assent received for Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation Bill	✓
38	Information to Women.	Underway	Draft detailed brochure completed for review.	✓
39	Letters to Medical Practitioners.	Underway	Letter drafted.	✓
40	Appropriately trained personnel should do cervical screening.	Underway	Workforce survey distributed and majority of responses received.	✓
41	All pathologists undertaking cytology should be appropriately trained.	Underway	Workforce survey distributed and majority of responses received.	✓
42	Cytopathologists must participate in continuing education in cytopathology.	Underway	Workforce survey distributed and majority of responses received.	✓
43	Pathologists ought to be more open-minded.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	✓
44	The Medical Council should ensure that systems are in place to support the early reporting of errant medical practitioners by their colleagues.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
45	NCSP should have a system for identifying deficiencies.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
46	There should be a process for monitoring the implementation of the Committees Recommendations.	Underway	Dr McGoogan's review ongoing.	✓

