

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

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### **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 fourth of these monthly reports.

### **COMMENT**

#### **Evaluation of the National Cervical Screening Programme**

2. The National Screening Unit has received the Draft Report on the Evaluation of the Follow-up and Treatment of Women with Abnormal Screening Histories (Part 2 of the National Evaluation) from the University of Otago. The NSU is currently reviewing the findings of the report as part of its Quality Monitoring work programme. (Recommendations 1 & 3).
3. Planning work on the Cancer Audit (Part 3 of the National Evaluation) is proceeding under the current legislative framework and will proceed to the ethical approval process. The requirement to obtain regional ethics committee approval could delay the start of the audit component itself. Members of the Cancer Audit Project Team recently returned from a visit with the Leicester Cancer Audit team. (Recommendations 1 & 3)
4. The first Independent Monitoring Group's National Cervical Screening Programme quarterly monitoring report was publicly released 30 July 2001. The monitoring report covers the three months from October 2000 to December 2000, and provides for the first time regular information on how specific programme providers are performing against a range of national indicators. (Recommendation 4)

#### **Changes to Legislation**

5. A total of 101 public submissions were received in response to the discussion document outlining proposed changes to Section 74A of the Health Act to enable the effective monitoring, audit and evaluation of the NCSP. The submissions have been analysed and a cabinet paper is now being drafted. (Recommendations 14,15, 17)
6. Two cabinet papers covering the Health & Disability Commissioner Amendment Bill, and the Health Professionals Competency Assurance Bill – Complaints & Discipline, have been submitted for approval by the Education and Health Cabinet Committee. (Recommendations 34, 35, 36, 44 )

## Ethics Committees

7. An extension to the period for consultation (was due end 31 July 2001) on the Draft Operational Standards for Health and Disability Ethics Committees has been granted to enable completion of a joint submission from Ethics Committees. (Recommendations 18, 20)

## Key Milestones Update

8. The Third Briefing Report identified key milestones for reporting in this fourth Report.
  - **Recommendations 4:** Release of NCSP IMG Quarterly Monitoring Report.  
The Report was released publicly on 30 July.
  - **Recommendations 7:** Completion of external peer review of NCSP Statistical Report  
Peer review of the NCSP Statistical Report 1996 to 1998 is ongoing. There has been some delay in receiving feedback from reviewers.
  - **Recommendations 14, 16, 17:** Completion of analysis of public submissions in response to Section 74A Discussion Document  
Analysis of the 101 public submissions has been completed.
  - **Recommendations 34, 35, 36, 44:** Preparation of Cabinet Paper regarding Health Professionals Competency Assurance Bill – Complaints and Discipline Provisions and Health & Disability Commissioner Act changes.  
Papers have been prepared for the Minister of Health for coalition consultation and Education and Health Cabinet Committee approval.
  - **Recommendation 39:** Letter sent to Medical Practitioners reminding them that cervical smear tests are not a means of diagnosing cervical cancer and that they should be alert to the symptoms of cervical cancer.  
The National Screening Unit will meet with the Royal College of General Practitioners to discuss the most effective means of informing GPs regarding this issue.

## Upcoming Milestones

- **Recommendation 1:** Completion of comprehensive written protocol for the carrying out of the Cancer Audit. Ethics Committee approval for the Cancer Audit.
- **Recommendations 14, 16, 17:** Cabinet Paper submitted.

- **Recommendation 28, 40, 41, 42:** Workforce Development Project Second Draft Report completed

## 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 <sup>1</sup>
2.	Underway	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46	37

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<sup>1</sup> Previously included Recommendation 18, further analysis has meant that this recommendation has been shifted to the recommendations underway group.

**TABLE 2.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRESS AGAINST REPORTING MILESTONES FOR 10 JULY TO 10 AUGUST 2001**

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones <sup>2</sup> for 10 July to 10 August 2001	Milestone Achieved
1.	Evaluation of NCSP –  Part 2	Underway	Draft Report by University of Otago received.	✓
	Part 3 (Cancer Audit).	Underway	Draft of Phase 2 Report 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.  First Independent Monitoring Group NCSP quarterly monitoring report released.	✓
5.	Full legal assessment of Operational Policy and Quality Standards.	Underway	Documentation review ongoing	
6.	Legal assessment of NCSP Authority.	Underway	Documentation review ongoing	
7.	Statistical Reporting.	Underway	Milestone Delayed.  Peer Review ongoing.	X

<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> for 10 July to 10 August 2001	Milestone Achieved
8.	Regular Statistical Information.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
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	Analysis of Public submissions complete.  Policy work ongoing. Cabinet Paper being drafted.	✓
15.	Kaitiaki Regulations.	Underway	Policy work underway.	✓
16.	Legal right to access information from the Cancer Register.	Underway	Analysis of Public submissions complete.  Policy work ongoing. Cabinet Paper being drafted.	✓
17.	Amend Health Act 1956 to enable access to medical files.	Underway	Analysis of Public submissions complete.  Policy work ongoing. Cabinet Paper being drafted.	✓
18.	Change guidelines under-which ethics committees operate.	Underway <sup>3</sup>	Milestone Delayed.  The draft Operational Standards for Health and Disability Ethics committees are currently out for consultation. The consultation period has been extended. The expected completion date for work on this milestone is now 1 November 2001	X
19.	Review of operations of ethics committees.	Underway	Milestone Delayed.  Work to be undertaken by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (The National Ethics Committee).	X
20.	Provide guidelines to ethics committees regarding Privacy Act & Code.	Complete	Milestone Delayed.  The draft Operational Standards for	X

<sup>3</sup> Was previously identified as Complete. Further analysis indicated a need to redesignate this recommendation as underway. Initial drafting of Operational Guidelines is complete. Ongoing consultation represents further stages of work.

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones <sup>2</sup> for 10 July to 10 August 2001	Milestone Achieved
	Act & Code.		Health and Disability Ethics committees are currently out for consultation. The consultation period has been extended. The expected completion date for work on this milestone is now 1 November 2001	
21.	Guidelines to ethics committees for observational studies.	Underway	Milestone Delayed.  Work to be undertaken by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (The National Ethics Committee).	X
22.	National ethics committee.	Underway	A briefing on options for a national ethics committee to be provided to Minister by 10 August 2001.	
23.	Appeal process for ethics committee decisions.	Underway	Milestone Delayed.  Work to be undertaken by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics (The National Ethics Committee).	X
24.	NCSP Complaints System.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
25.	Electronic Link Cancer Register & NCSP Register.	Underway	Requirements Definition work underway.	
26.	Performance Standards for NCSP Register and Cancer Register.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
27.	Standards for the NCSP should be reviewed every two years.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
28.	The Government must ensure sufficient cytotechnologists and cytopathologists and training sites.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  The National Screening Unit's Workforce Development Project continues to focus on this issue as a priority.	
29.	Amend Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulations 1989.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones <sup>2</sup> for 10 July to 10 August 2001	Milestone Achieved
30.	Impose Legal obligations on storage of slides.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
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	No Reporting Milestone this period.  The National Screening Unit has commenced a review of laboratory coding issues.	
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.	
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	Paper sent to Minister of Health for coalition consultation.	✓
35.	Medical Tribunal to supply information to NCSP.	Underway	Paper sent to Minister of Health for coalition consultation.	✓
36.	ACC & Medical Council should exchange relevant information regarding claims for medical misadventure.	Underway	Paper sent to Minister of Health for coalition consultation.	✓
38	Information to Women.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  Overall delay.	
39	Letters to Medical Practitioners.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  The National Screening Unit to discuss this recommendation further	

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones <sup>2</sup> for 10 July to 10 August 2001	Milestone Achieved
			with the College of GPs.	
40	Appropriately trained personnel should do cervical screening.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  The National Screening Unit's Workforce Development Project continues to focus on this issue as a priority.	
41	All pathologists undertaking cytology should be appropriately trained.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  The National Screening Unit's Workforce Development Project continues to focus on this issue as a priority.	
42	Cytopathologists must participate in continuing education in cytopathology.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  The National Screening Unit's Workforce Development Project continues to focus on this issue as a priority.	
43	Pathologists ought to be more open-minded.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.  A meeting has been scheduled with the Royal College of Pathologists to discuss this recommendation.	
44	The Medical Council should ensure that systems are in place to support the early reporting of errant medical practitioners by their colleagues.	Underway	Paper sent to Minister of Health for coalition consultation.	✓
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.	✓