



HEALTH REPORT

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

July 2001

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 third of the monthly reports.

COMMENT

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

2. There continues to be steady progress in the implementation of the Inquiry recommendations. 9 recommendations are now completed and the total number of recommendations underway is now 36.
3. The NSU awaits delivery of the Draft Final Report on the Evaluation of the Follow-up and Treatment of Women with Abnormal Screening Histories from the University of Otago. The report was due 30 June 2001 and is now not expected before the end of July 2001.
4. From 1 July 2001 all DHBs and Community Laboratories became contractually bound to meet the NCSP Policy and Quality Standards. DHBs are in the process of returning signed copies of the Agreements. Community Laboratory Agreements have been devolved to DHBs. A separate Community Laboratory Agreement for NCSP services will be developed directly with the NSU within the next two to three months. Once this agreement is in place, the Community Laboratory Agreements with DHBs will be varied to remove NCSP services.
5. Auckland and Canterbury DHBs submitted proposals for the provision of cytology services in accordance with the NCSP Policy and Quality Standards, including the minimum volume standard for cytology testing. These proposals were reviewed by the NSU and accepted, subject to agreeing a community

laboratory contract and ongoing monitoring provisions. Two public hospital laboratories will therefore continue to provide cervical cytology services. Three further public hospital laboratories and four private community laboratories have confirmed their intention to cease provision of these services.

6. The Legal Assessment review of NCSP Policy and Quality Standards, Evaluation and Monitoring Plan, and Contract Agreements has commenced. Various documents and NSU submissions have been made to the review team.
7. Policy work for the Cabinet Paper on changes to Section 74A of the Health Act is proceeding. More than 30 public submissions on the discussion document have been received to date.
8. A project plan has been developed for the Review of the Kaitiaki Regulations and the Working Group met with the Convenor of the National Kaitiaki Group on 4 July 2001 to discuss this project.
9. The Minister of Health has agreed that with regard to providing guidance to ethics committees, this work will be carried out by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics ("The National Ethics Committee"), which has yet to be established. Advertisements calling for nominations to the National Ethics Committee have been placed.
10. The Minister of Health has agreed that the National Advisory Committee on Health and Disability Support Services Ethics will be the independent appeal body to which persons may go if unsatisfied with an ethics committee decision regarding the approval or withholding approval of research or innovative practice proposal.
11. Workstreams for the proposed Comprehensive Bill¹ are progressing to current time frames.
12. Recommendations 38 of the Inquiry Report called for further information to be provided to women to enable them to make informed decisions about screening and assess the risks and benefits. In December 2000, the NSU commissioned Women's Health Action to prepare material that could be used to inform women and thus meet the requirements of this recommendation. This material was due for release December 2001. Women's Health Action has advised the NSU that the delivery date for this material has been delayed to June 2002. The NSU has asked for further explanation on the delay, and is considering alternate options for the more timely provision of information to women.
13. In relation to the Workforce Development Project existing data on the current numbers of cytotechnologists and cytopathologists, and training sites has been gathered. Discussions have been held with the Royal College of Pathologists Australasia and Bachelor of Medical Science providers regarding pathologists and cytotechnologist training in light of the implementation of NCSP Standards, and availability of training in community laboratories. Discussions have also been held with the Clinical Training Agency regarding cytology training for

¹ Previously referred to as the Omnibus Bill

Pathologists and investigations continue into cytoscreening training requirements. Available options for the participation of pathologists practising cytology in continuing medical education are being identified.

14. The NSU is preparing a paper for the Minister providing details of the Unit's assessment of the implications for BreastScreen Aotearoa (BSA). Subsequent Monthly Progress Reports will include details of the NSU's ongoing review of BSA where relevant.
15. The Second Briefing Report identified two key milestones for reporting in this second Report.

- **Recommendations 4 & 9:** Contract Agreements with DHBs for the provision of NCSP Services in place. Release of IMG NCSP Report.

DHBs are in the process of returning signed agreements to the NSU. The implementation of the minimum volume standard recommendation is complete. The IMG NCSP Report is due for public release towards the end of July.

- **Recommendations 28, 40 41 42:** First Draft of Research Report by Workforce Development Project.

The Workforce Development Project is meeting key milestones and a first draft of the Research Report has been submitted to the NSU for review for discussion at the Project Steering Group meeting 19 July 2001.

UPCOMING MILESTONES:

- **Recommendation 4:** Release of NCSP IMG Quarterly Monitoring Report.
- **Recommendations 7:** Completion of external peer review of NCSP Statistical Report.
- **Recommendations 14, 16, 17:** Completion of analysis of public submissions in response to Section 74A Discussion Document.
- **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.
- **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.

APPENDIX 1.0

TABLE 1.0: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETE

	Status	Recommendations	Total Number
1.	Complete	4, 9,10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 37	9
2.	Underway	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 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	36

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

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ² for 10 June 2001 to 10 July	Milestone Achieved
1.	Evaluation of NCSP – Part 2 Part 3 (Cancer Audit).	Underway Underway	Delivery of Draft Report by University of Otago. Draft Cancer Audit Options Paper prepared in preparation for completion of detailed audit protocol.	 X ✓
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	Part 1 Complete. Parts 5, 6 and 8 included within the scope of Part 3 (Cancer Audit) – see above. Parts 4, 7 and 10 included within scope of NCSP Statistical Reporting.	✓
4.	Implementation of Operational Policy and Quality Standards & Evaluation Plan.	Complete	Completed for DHBs and Community Laboratory Agreements. Further project work to take place with regard to implementation of standards for Smear-Takers	✓
5.	Full legal assessment of Operational Policy and Quality Standards.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
6.	Legal assessment of NCSP Authority.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
7.	Statistical Reporting.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
8.	Regular Statistical Information.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	

² 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 ² for 10 June 2001 to 10 July	Milestone Achieved
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	Public submissions being received. Policy work ongoing.	✓
15.	Kaitiaki Regulations.	Underway	Timeframes have been scoped for review.	✓
16.	Legal right to access information from the Cancer Register.	Underway	Public submissions being received. Policy work ongoing.	✓
17.	Amend Health Act 1956 to enable access to medical files.	Underway	Public submissions being received. Policy work ongoing.	✓
18.	Change guidelines under-which ethics committees operate.	Complete		✓
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).	X
20.	Provide guidelines to ethics committees regarding Privacy Act & Code.	Complete		✓
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).	X
22.	National ethics committee.	Underway	Briefing to be provided to Minister within the next two weeks	X
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 Committee).	X
24.	NCSP Complaints System.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
25.	Electronic Link Cancer Register & NCSP Register.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ² for 10 June 2001 to 10 July	Milestone Achieved
	Register & NCSP Register.			
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	First Draft Research Report prepared for review.	✓
29.	Amend Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulations 1989.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
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.	
32.	Develop Standards for accuracy of laboratory coding.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
33.	The NCSP should develop a population based register.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
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	Report to Comprehensive Bill ³ Steering Group on streamlining complaints processes was submitted 5 June.	✓
35.	Medical Tribunal to supply information to NCSP.	Underway	Report to Comprehensive Bill ⁴ Steering Group on streamlining complaints processes was submitted 5 June.	✓
36.	ACC & Medical Council should exchange relevant information regarding claims	Underway	Report to Comprehensive Bill ⁵ Steering Group on streamlining complaints processes was submitted	✓

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Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ² for 10 June 2001 to 10 July	Milestone Achieved
	for medical misadventure.		5 June.	
38	Information to Women.	Underway	Women's Health Action unable to meet contracted timeframe for provision of materials – suggested delay for delivery 6 months.	X
39	Letters to Medical Practitioners.	Underway	Letters drafted for awaiting final review prior to sending.	✓
40	Appropriately trained personnel should do cervical screening.	Underway	First Draft Research Report prepared for review.	✓
41	All pathologists undertaking cytology should be appropriately trained.	Underway	First Draft Research Report prepared for review.	✓
42	Cytopathologists must participate in continuing education in cytopathology.	Underway	First Draft Research Report prepared for review.	✓
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	Report to Comprehensive Bill ⁶ Steering Group on streamlining complaints processes was submitted 5 June.	✓
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	Initial meetings held with Dr McGoogan.	✓

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