

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

JUNE 2001

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. In response to recommendation 46 of the Inquiry Report, the Director General will supply monthly reports to the Minister. The first report to the Minister was sent in May. The frequency of the reports will be reviewed after six months.

COMMENT

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Good progress continues to be made on the implementation of the Inquiry recommendations. A further 4 recommendations got underway this month bringing the total number of recommendations underway to 32. Four have been completed to date.
3. The Cancer Audit project is progressing well and meeting key milestones. There is still a need to identify a cancer epidemiology group to undertake the audit itself, once work on the audit protocol is complete. The project team will seek this expertise in NZ and Australia. Members of the Cancer Audit Team are also due to visit the UK to meet with the team who carried out the Leicester Audit.
4. In addition to the work being carried out with DHBs regarding the implementation of NCSP Policy and Quality Standards, a further project is being set-up to ensure that medical and practice nurse smear-takers are also required to adopt these standards, as they apply to smear-taking. It was hoped that the 2001/02 Agreements with the NZMA and Independent Practitioners Associations would provide this opportunity, but given the limited time for negotiation and investigation of the impact of these standards on smear-takers, it was felt that further more detailed work should take place. The NSU will be working with the NZMA and IPAC over the coming months to explore options for the implementation of standards for smear-takers.
5. Government recently agreed to the public release of a discussion document on changes to the legislation (Section 74A of the Health Act 1956) that would enable the comprehensive audit, evaluation and monitoring of the NCSP. The discussion document, entitled *Improving the NCSP, Law Changes to Support the Audit of the Programme* was distributed this week to a number of women's organisations, health providers and professional organisations. A six-week

period has been allocated for receipt and analysis of submissions and work continues on the policy issues associated with the legislative change.

6. An internal steering group has been established for the review of the Kaitiaki Regulations and a project plan has been completed for the process for review and consultation.
7. A meeting was recently held with representatives of the Health Research Council and the Chair of the Regional Ethics Committees to discuss draft guidelines for the operation of ethics committees. The draft guidelines are being amended to incorporate the comments received at this meeting in advance of further circulation.
8. Since you approved the Terms of Reference for a National Ethics Committee letters seeking nominations for the Committee are being prepared for sending next week.
9. Work has commenced on the recommendations involving changes or improvements to the Cancer Registry and NCSP-Register. A project team with representatives from NZHIS and the NSU are currently scoping the work involved and preparing various project plans.
10. The Ministry has written to the Clerk of the House seeking approval for the introduction of an Omnibus Bill, which includes a number of legislative requirements, associated with the Inquiry recommendations.
11. A number of the Inquiry recommendations are being examined as part of the NSU's Workforce Development Project. Project Team members have now met with a number of screening and education providers and are continuing to compile research information on available workforce and current training. The implications of implementing NCSP quality standards for the screening workforce, particularly in laboratories, is also being considered.
12. The First Briefing Report identified six key milestones for reporting in this second Report.

- **Recommendation 1:** Delivery of Draft Report on Part 2 of the NCSP Evaluation Plan to NSCP by University of Otago.

The University of Otago has confirmed in a recent meeting with NSU that a Draft Final Report on the Evaluation of the Follow-up and Treatment of Women with Abnormal Screening Histories will now be submitted on 30 June 2001. The delay in providing this report to the NSU is due to initial difficulties in obtaining individual consents of the women concerned.

- **Recommendation 4 & 9:** Finalisation of DHB Contracts for the provision of Cervical Screening Services (incorporating Policy and Quality Standards and Minimum Volumes for Cytology).

DHB responses to the Agreement for the Provision of NCSP Services have been reviewed and the Final Agreement documents will be sent to DHBs in the next 2 weeks for signing prior to 1 July 2001.

The NSU is expecting proposals from Auckland and Canterbury DHBs as to how they intend to meet this and other quality standards. Capital & Coast DHB has signalled their intention to enter arrangements with their local community laboratories for the provision of the cervical cytology services.

- **Recommendation 5 & 6:** Appointment of Legal Advisers.

The legal assessment required for recommendations 5 and 6 has commenced. Further investigation and scoping of this work will take place in June 2001.

- **Recommendation 14:** Public release of the Section 74A discussion document subject to government consideration.

Discussion document was publicly released on 5 June 2001.

- **Recommendations 7 & 8:** Commenced Peer Review of NCSP Statistical Report.

The NCSP 1996-98 Statistical Report is on target to go out for Peer Review in the next 2 weeks. Work on the 1999-2000 Report will commence in July 2001.

- **Recommendation 46:** Minister to meet with Dr Euphemia McGoogan.

The Minister and the DDG Public Health recently met with Dr McGoogan in the UK. Dr McGoogan will visit NZ in October 2001 and again in April 2002 to deliver her 6 monthly reports.

UPCOMING MILESTONES:

- **Recommendations 4 & 9:** Contract Agreements with DHBs for the provision of NCSP Services in place. Release of IMG NCSP Report.
- **Recommendations 28, 40 41 42:** First Draft of Research Report by Workforce Development Project.

APPENDIX 1.0

TABLE 1.0: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETE

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

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

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 May to 10 June 2001	Milestone Achieved
1.	Evaluation of NCSP – Part 2 Part 3 (Cancer Audit).	Underway Underway	Delivery of Draft Report by University of Otago No Reporting Milestones this period	 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.	Underway	Finalisation of DHB Contracts for the provision of Cervical Screening Services (incorporating Policy and Quality Standards and Minimum Volumes for Cytology).	 x
5.	Full legal assessment of Operational Policy and Quality Standards.	Underway	Legal advisers appointed.	 ✓
6.	Legal assessment of NCSP Authority.	Underway	Legal advisers appointed.	 ✓
7.	Statistical Reporting.	Underway	1996 to 1998 Reports prepared in draft for Peer Review. Schedule agreed for 1999/2000 Report.	 ✓

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 May to 10 June 2001	Milestone Achieved
8.	Regular Statistical Information.	Underway	Review of NCSP Register regular statistical and other reporting commenced.	✓
9.	Minimum Standards for Cytology Laboratories.	Underway	Already incorporated into Community Laboratory Contracts as of November 2000. For Public Hospitals, contracts incorporating Standards Schedule sent to DHBs 4 April 2001.	✓ ✓
14.	Amend S74 of the Health Act 1956.	Underway	Public release of Section 74A discussion document. Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill.	✓
15.	Kaitiaki Regulations.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
16.	Legal right to access information from the Cancer Register.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
17.	Amend Health Act 1956 to enable access to medical files.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
18.	Change guidelines under-which ethics committees operate.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
19.	Review of operations of ethics committees.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
20.	Provide guidelines to ethics committees regarding Privacy Act & Code.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
21.	Guidelines to ethics committees for observational studies.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
22.	National ethics committee.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
23.	Appeal process for ethics committee decisions.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
24.	NCSP Complaints System.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
25.	Electronic Link Cancer Register & NCSP Register.	Underway	Draft Scoping Paper Prepared.	✓

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 May to 10 June 2001	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	No Reporting Milestone this period.	
29.	Amend Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulations 1989.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
30.	Impose Legal obligations on storage of slides.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
31.	Ensure electronic linkage between NCSP Register and Cytology Labs.		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.		Draft Scoping Paper being prepared	✓
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 Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
35.	Medical Tribunal to supply information to NCSP.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
36.	ACC & Medical Council should exchange relevant information regarding claims for medical misadventure.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
38	Information to Women.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	
39	Letters to Medical Practitioners.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 May to 10 June 2001	Milestone Achieved
	Practitioners.			
40	Appropriately trained personnel should do cervical screening.	Underway	In research phase.	✓
41	All pathologists undertaking cytology should be appropriately trained.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
42	Cytopathologists must participate in continuing education in cytopathology.	Underway	Report to Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
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 Clerk of House seeking approval to introduce Omnibus Bill	✓
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	Draft Project Plan prepared. Steering Group appointed.	✓ ✓