

THE FIRST BRIEFING REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO THE MINISTER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GISBORNE CERVICAL SCREENING INQUIRY REPORT

MAY 2001

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Recommendation 46 of the Inquiry Report requires that there should be a system for monitoring the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. In response to this recommendation it was agreed that the Director General would supply monthly reports to the Minister, with the frequency of the reports to be reviewed after 6 months.
2. For each of the 46 recommendations the monthly report will identify progress against specific project milestones, as they fall due.

COMMENT

PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

3. A Ministry Steering Group comprising representatives of the National Screening Unit, and Personal Health, Sector Policy, and Corporate & Information Directorates, has been formed to oversee implementation of the recommendations.
4. The Steering Group will be required to maintain an overview of the implementation of the recommendations individually and collectively. The Group will meet formally on a monthly basis and will review progress against detailed project plans for each recommendation, referring issues to the Deputy Director General of Public Health where escalation is required. The first formal meeting of the Steering Group was held 8 May 2001.
5. Lead responsibility for the delivery of each of the recommendations has been agreed, including management of cross-functional teams and external advisers and agencies where these are required.
6. A Draft Project Plan has been prepared, including resource requirements and estimates of the duration and effort of work. This Plan will form the basis of subsequent progress reporting.
7. The Project Plan, together with plan updates and copies of monthly reporting will be provided to Dr Euphemia McGoogan on a regular basis. Dr Euphemia McGoogan, an expert cervical cytopathologist from Edinburgh, has agreed to provide independent advice to the Minister about progress on the implementation of recommendations.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Since the release of the Inquiry Report on 10 April 2001, good progress has been made on the initial work to scope and commence the implementation of the recommendations. Work has focused on ensuring that the appropriate responsibilities and level of resource are allocated to each recommendation. Various project teams have been formed and external advisers engaged where required.
9. Work carried out to strengthen the programme over the last 2 years has been assessed in light of the report's recommendations. Much of this work has contributed to the implementation of the report's recommendations, and is now part of the National Screening Unit's ongoing operations.
10. Importantly, progress has been made on key recommendations on the critical path for other recommendations. In particular, progress on the implementation of amendments to Section 74A of the Health Act 1956, will assist recommendations regarding the evaluation of the NCSP. Government is currently considering a public discussion document regarding audit requirements and Section 74A amendments.
11. Although some recommendations have no milestones against which to report this month, progress has been made in the planning and scoping of their implementation.
12. A further Steering Group and Work Group have been formed to oversee the implementation of the omnibus bills outlined in a recent Health Report to the Minister, and incorporating legislative requirements for seven of the recommendations. Representatives of these groups are also included in the Inquiry Steering Group.
13. Tables summarising progress on each of the recommendations are attached at Appendix 1.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

14. Key reporting milestones to 10 June 2001 include:
 - ?**Recommendation 1:** Delivery of Draft Report on Part 2 of the NCSP Evaluation Plan to NSCP by University of Otago.
 - ?**Recommendation 4 & 9:** Finalisation of DHB Contracts for the provision of Cervical Screening Services (incorporating Policy and Quality Standards and Minimum Volumes for Cytology).
 - ?**Recommendation 5 & 6:** Appointment of Legal Advisers.
 - ?**Recommendation 14:** Public release of the Section 74A discussion document subject to government consideration.

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

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

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, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46	28

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

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 April to 10 May 2001	Milestone Achieved
1.	Evaluation of NCSP – Part 2 Part 3 (Cancer Audit).	Underway Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period. Project Team formed, and work underway. External Expert Advisors appointed. Steering Group appointed and Terms of Reference agreed with NSU Advisory Group.	? ? ? ?? ? ?? ? ??
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	Contracts incorporating Standards Schedule sent to DHBs 4 April 2001.	?? ?
5.	Full legal assessment of Operational Policy and Quality Standards.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
6.	Legal assessment of NCSP Authority.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?

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' for 10 April to 10 May 2001	Milestone Achieved
7.	Statistical Reporting.	Underway	1996 to 1998 Reports prepared in draft for Peer Review. Schedule agreed for 1999/2000 Report.	??
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.	?? ? ??
10.	Balanced approach to all aspects of NCSP.	Complete	Current Practice.	??
11.	Dr Julia Peter's culture.	Complete	Current Practice.	??
12.	NCSP Management as a separate Unit.	Complete	Current Practice.	??
13.	NSU Manager.	Complete	Group Manager and Clinical Director appointed.	??
14.	Amend S74 of the Health Act 1956.	Underway	Discussion Document prepared. Cabinet Paper submitted to Minister.	?? ??
15.	Kaitiaki Regulations.		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	Discussion Document prepared. Cabinet Paper submitted to Minister.	?? ??
18.	Change guidelines under-which ethics committees operate.	Underway	Draft operational guidelines sent out for public consultation.	??
19.	Review of operations of ethics committees.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
20.	Provide guidelines to ethics committees regarding Privacy	Underway	Draft operational guidelines sent out for public consultation.	??

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones' for 10 April to 10 May 2001	Milestone Achieved
	Act & Code.		for public consultation.	
21.	Guidelines to ethics committees for observational studies.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
22.	National ethics committee.	Underway	Terms of Reference Developed	??
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.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
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	In research phase.	??
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.		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.		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	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	?

Ref	Recommendation	Underway/ Complete	Reporting Milestones ¹ for 10 April to 10 May 2001	Milestone Achieved
	Ministry's NCSP.			
35.	Medical Tribunal to supply information to NCSP.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
36.	ACC & Medical Council should exchange relevant information regarding claims for medical misadventure.	Underway	No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
37.	Relationship with Royal Colleges.	Underway	Current Practice	??
38.	Information to Women.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
39.	Letters to Medical Practitioners.		No Reporting Milestone this period.	?
40.	Appropriately trained personnel should do cervical screening.	Underway	In research phase.	??
41.	Cytopathologists must participate in continuing education in cytopathology.	Underway	In research phase.	??
42.	All pathologists undertaking cytology should be appropriately trained.	Underway	In research phase.	??
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	Draft Project Plan prepared. Steering Group appointed.	?? ??