



Office of the Prime Minister's
Chief Science Advisor

Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia

CANNABIS EXPERT PANEL – Minutes from Meeting 2

Tuesday 29 October 2019

Karakia & Meeting opened: 10.00am

Present: Prof Juliet Gerrard (co-Chair), Professor Tracey McIntosh (co-Chair), Associate Professor Joseph Boden, Dr Hinemoa Elder, Professor Benedikt Fischer (via phone from 10am - 12.30pm), Professor Michelle Glass, Associate Professor Khylee Quince, Professor Doug Sellman, Associate Professor Tamasailau Suaalii, Associate Professor Chris Wilkins, Dr Michelle Sullivan (panel support)

Apologies: Professor Benedikt Fischer (from 12.30pm), Dr David Newcombe.

Minutes of the previous meeting. The panel unanimously agreed to accept the minutes and publish them online for transparency.

Action items. The completed interest register will be uploaded to the website.

Update from Ministry of Justice. Juliet noted that the panel is working completely independently from any government agency. However, Ministry of Justice have a parallel workstream focused on crafting the proposed legislation. The Ministry of Justice officials are willing to review any references to the likely referendum/policy settings in our panel's final report to ensure accuracy. They may also choose to draw on the expertise of this panel after it has completed the report for the Prime Minister.

Dissemination and translation of evidence to New Zealanders. The panel was interested to ensure that the evidence in the report is effectively communicated to New Zealanders, especially Māori and Pasifika peoples. However, it was noted this is outside the panel's terms of reference.

Consensus Statement. The panel discussed themes toward a consensus statement to open the report. The panel agreed to working on development of agreed themes.

Report. The panel discussed the structure of the report, and agreed on the following components:

1. Short opening consensus statement
2. Accessible summary of the evidence. Key themes that will be covered are:
 - Cannabis use and prevalence
 - Health impacts (including mental health impacts)
 - Impact on Māori
 - Legal and regulatory framework options and impacts
3. Frequently asked questions. Key themes that will be covered are:
 - History of Cannabis
 - Pharmacology
 - Comparison of cannabis with other drugs
 - Interventions
4. Bibliography and further reading



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Matters Arising

Action item	Responsibility	Status
Peer reviewers. Gather nominations for potential reviewers and confirm whether reviewer names and emails are subject to OIA.	Michelle.	Long-list of potential peer reviewers being collated.
Register of interests	Michelle	To be uploaded to PMCSA website.
Media & public interest	Juliet	The minutes from meeting 1 will be uploaded to the website. Another blog post is planned.
Regular updates on media coverage on cannabis & panellist activities	Susie	Underway.
Pasifika perspective	Tamasailau	Pending once a full draft of the report is available.
Cannabis policy workshop update	Chris	Next meeting.
Benedikt Fisher's own academic (proprietary) work to be shared in the strictest confidence.	Benedikt/Michelle	Dropbox link will be shared to panellists.

Karakia & Meeting closed: 3.30pm