Ministry of Health Library

Grey Matter

A Collection of Recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government Reports

Issue 74, 2019, October

Welcome to Grey Matter, the Ministry of Health Library's Grey Literature Bulletin. In each issue, we provide access to a selection of the most recent NGO, Think Tank, and International Government reports that are relevant to the health context. The goal of this newsletter is to facilitate access to material that may be more difficult to locate (in contrast to journal articles and the news media). Information is arranged by topic, allowing readers to quickly identify their key areas of interest. Email library@moh.govt.nz to subscribe.

Click on any of the bulleted points below to go to a section of interest.

Equity

World Health Statistics 2019: Monitoring Health for the SDGs
"Collecting data on disease and death, tracking trends, measuring numbers of healthcare workers, and analysing the amount spent on healthcare allows us to understand why people become sick and what kills them. These indicators are included in the Sustainable

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Development Goals (SDGs) to enable us to track whether we are on target to improving health worldwide." *Source: WHO*

[Action required: the urgency of addressing social determinants of health](#)
"PwC lays out five steps for bold action that organisations can take to lead in a world in which social determinants assume a more prominent role. The research is backed by new results from a global survey conducted by PwC's Health Research Institute, along with interviews with healthcare leaders and analysis of dozens of case studies." *Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC*

[Counting ourselves: The health and wellbeing of trans and non-binary people in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
"Counting Ourselves was the first comprehensive national survey of the health and wellbeing of trans and non-binary people in Aotearoa New Zealand. It was conducted between 21 June and 30 September 2018 and completed by 1,178 trans and non-binary people aged between 14 and 83 from all regions in the country." *Source: Transgender Health Research Lab*

[Investing in Interventions That Address Non-Medical, Health-Related Social Needs: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)
"To explore the potential effect of addressing non-medical health-related social needs on improving population health and reducing health care spending in a value-driven health care delivery system, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine held a full-day public. The objectives of the workshop were to explore effective practices and the supporting evidence base for addressing the non-medical health-related social needs of individuals, such as housing and food insecurities; review assessments of return on investment (ROI) for payers, healthy systems, and communities; and identify gaps and opportunities for research and steps that could help to further the understanding of the ROI on addressing non-medical health-related social needs. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

[A Health Equity Approach to Obesity Efforts](#)
"On April 1, 2019, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a public workshop, A Health Equity Approach to Obesity Efforts, in Washington, DC. The workshop explored the history of health equity issues in demographic groups that have above-average obesity risk, and considered principles and approaches to address these issues as part of obesity prevention and treatment efforts." *Source: National Academies Press*

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Social Care and Disability

[What should be done to fix the crisis in social care?](#)
"Adult social care in England needs fixing – and has done for decades. Increasing numbers of people are unable to access social care and care providers are at risk of collapse…A range of options can be explored to raise revenue to fund social care reform." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

[Policy briefing: social care funding and mental health](#)
"This policy briefing explores the principles that would need to underpin any sustainable social care settlement from the perspective of mental health support for working age adults." *Source: Centre for Mental Health (UK)*

[The right to a relationship: addressing the barriers that people with learning disabilities face in developing and sustaining intimate and sexual relationships](#)
"People with learning disabilities want to have relationships. They are the same as people without learning disabilities: having different relationships – friendships, romantic and sexual relationships – is an important part of their lives. However, unlike people without learning disabilities, institutional and attitudinal barriers prevent many people with learning disabilities to exercise and enjoy this fundamental human right." *Source: National Development Team for Inclusion (UK)*

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Public Health

[Influences and policies that affect immunisation coverage - a review of literature](#)
"This evidence-based review of recently published literature was conducted to identify and examine core drivers that potentially affect vaccine uptake and immunisation coverage of the National Immunisation Schedule childhood vaccines. The literature reviewed was published primarily between January 2012 and July 2018." *Source: National Immunisation Advisory Centre (New Zealand)*

[Contained or contagious? The future of infectious disease in ageing societies](#)
"Increased longevity should be celebrated as one of society's greatest accomplishments. However, there is still a lot of work to be done to adapt to the new profile of our ageing society if we are to maximise the potential benefits of longevity. And health systems have a key role to play in this." *Source: International Longevity Centre UK*

[Health care's climate footprint: how the health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and opportunities for action](#)
"The series will define health care's climate footprint and outline a set of actions the sector can take to align itself with the ambition of the Paris Agreement while simultaneously achieving global health goals. Future paper topics will include a global road map for health care decarbonization and resilience; strategies for national and sub-national governments to develop and implement climate-smart health care policies; decarbonizing the health care supply chain; recommendations for sustainable, climate-resilient, decarbonized health development assistance; and more." *Source: Health Care Without Harm*

[Online gambling in New Zealand: Results from the 2018 Health and Lifestyles Survey](#)
"This report presents results from the 2018 Health and Lifestyles Survey. It focuses on the profile of online gamblers and the types of online gambling in which they participated. Online gamblers are those who gambled over the internet on New Zealand hosted websites and apps (domestic), or on overseas hosted websites, in the last 12 months." *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Agency)*

Accessing sexual health testing online

Sexual Health London (SHL) was developed in London through the London Sexual Health Programme, a partnership of 31 London local authorities, which enables sexual health services (SHSs) to meet the combined challenge of rising demand and fewer resources. The service makes it simpler and more convenient for people - including those in the groups more at risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) - to get tested regularly, encouraging early identification of STIs and avoiding onward transmission." *Source: Public Health England*

Evaluation of the Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services program

"The Integrated Domestic and Family Violence Services (IDFVS) program is a multi-agency response to prevent the escalation of domestic and family violence among high-risk target groups and in targeted communities. It is a collaboration between the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (formerly Family and Community Services), NSW Police and non-government support agencies. IDFVS provides a wrap-around and coordinated service delivery model for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and their children." *Source: FACS Insights, Analysis and Research (FACSIAR)*

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Workforce

Strengthening health systems through nursing: Evidence from 14 European countries

'Who is a nurse?' and 'What is nursing?' seem to be simple questions yet the answers are strangely elusive. This book explores the variations in structure and organization of the nursing workforce across the different countries of Europe. This diversity, and the reasons for it, are of more than academic interest. The work of nurses has always had a critical impact on patient outcomes. As health systems shift radically in response to rising demand, the role of nurses becomes even more important." *Source: European Observatory*

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Health Systems, Costs, & Reforms

Course corrections: how health care innovators learn from setbacks to achieve success

"This report examines new models for delivering and paying for health care to better serve vulnerable patients, including people with multiple chronic conditions, serious illnesses, or functional limitations, as well as those at risk of developing health problems because of their social circumstances or behavioural health conditions. It also showcases models that improve the quality of care and health outcomes while lowering costs or reducing unnecessary health care use." *Source: Commonwealth Fund*

What can England learn from the long-term care system in Germany?

"The current social care system in England is widely regarded as unfair, complex, confusing and failing to meet growing care needs in the population. Germany was in a similar situation 24 years ago, but successfully brought about far-reaching reform. As the UK government

promises to fix our social care system, what can England learn from Germany's experience of reform?" *Source: Nuffield Trust (UK)*

Achieving Integrated Care: 15 best practice actions
"The fifteen actions prioritised in this resource draw on evidence about what works from international research, emerging best practices and engagement with stakeholders and partners." *Source: Local Government Association (UK)*

Drivers of health care expenditure: final report
"To identify the challenges and opportunities for developing a model of health care demand, this report looks at drivers of past trends in health care expenditure and how much each of the drivers has contributed to past increases in expenditure. It also investigates how much each type of service contributed to past trends in health care expenditure and why there have been different trends for different types of care." *Source: Centre for Health Economics (UK)*

The impact of technological advancements on health spending: A literature review
"The measurement of the impact of technology as a driver of health care expenditure is complex since technological effects are closely interlinked with other determinants such as income and the composition and health status of a population. Furthermore, the impact of the supply of advances in technology on health expenditure cannot be considered in isolation from demand and the policy context and the broader institutional context governing the adoption of new technologies. Hence, it is the interaction of supply and demand factors and the context that determine the ultimate level of technology use." *Source: OECD*

Sustainable health financing with an ageing population: implications of different revenue raising mechanisms and policy options
"This brief looks at how health and long-term care systems are financed and reports on the potential effects of population ageing on countries' ability to generate sufficient and stable revenues for health from common funding sources (i.e. income taxes, consumption taxes, property taxes and social contributions) in the future." *Source: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*

Creating Healthy Lives
"This publication makes the case for an ambitious, whole-government approach to long-term investment in the nation's health. [They] recommend five shifts in the government's overall approach to achieving this aim and outline how investment can be rebalanced towards areas of spending that maintain and improve health, such as early years services, housing and social security." *Source: Health Foundation (UK)*

Creating healthy places: perspectives from NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme
"Despite this awareness of the wider determinants of health, the joined-up thinking needed to create places that support and promote health can be challenging to bring about as a result of conflicting priorities and pressures. NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme has sought to overcome this by bringing together the health sector, housing developers, local authority planning teams and local residents to design and build healthier communities." *Source: King's Fund*

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Technology

Towards Our Intelligent Future – An AI Roadmap for New Zealand
"The report provides a showcase of local AI (artificial intelligence) case studies, analysis of what's needed to boost acceptance and adoption, and a first examination of Māori attitudes, perceptions of and engagement with AI." *Source: Forum New Zealand*

Generation genome and the opportunities for screening programmes
"The report briefly defines genome sequencing and how, by improving our understanding of genetic activity, we can determine how best to use genetics in screening." *Source: Public Health England*

Key Operational Characteristics and Functionalities of a State-of-the-Art Patient Scheduling System: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief
"The National Academies convened a two-day workshop to explore important operational characteristics and functionalities of effective patient scheduling systems. This workshop built upon a 2015 Institute of Medicine report that identified hurdles to timely patient scheduling specifically within the Veterans Health Administration, who administers the VA system. Discussions at the workshop reviewed past healthcare system patient, clinician, and scheduler experiences and technologies. They also highlighted the importance of design, implementation, and adaptability of scheduling systems. This publication summarizes the presentations from the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Advance Environmental Health Research and Decisions: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief
"On June 6–7, 2019, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a 2-day workshop to explore emerging applications and implications of AI and machine learning in environmental health research and decisions. Speakers highlighted the use of AI and machine learning to characterize sources of pollution, predict chemical toxicity, and estimate human exposures to contaminants, among other applications. Though promising, questions remain about the use of AI and machine learning in environmental health research and public policy decisions. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

Cancer & End of Life Care

Advancing Progress in the Development of Combination Cancer Therapies with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors: Proceedings of a Workshop
"To examine the challenges and opportunities to develop combination cancer therapies that include immune checkpoint inhibitors, the National Cancer Policy Forum held a workshop on July 16–17, 2018, in Washington, DC. This workshop convened stakeholders with a broad range of expertise, including cancer researchers, clinicians, patient advocates, and representatives from industry, academia, and government. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop." *Source: National Academies Press*

[Action Plan on Palliative Care: Building on the Framework on Palliative Care in Canada](#)
"Most Canadians living with life-limiting illness wish to remain independent and receive the care they need at home or in their community. Improved access to palliative care in a variety of health care settings is critical to making that happen. That is why the Government of Canada has made palliative care a priority." *Source: Health Canada*

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Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Obesity

[Essential Nutrition Actions: Maintaining Nutrition Through The Life Course](#)
"This publication's primary purpose is to provide a compilation of actions to address malnutrition in all its forms, in a concise and user-friendly format to help in decision-making processes for integration of nutrition interventions in national health policies, strategies, and plans based on country-specific needs and global priorities." *Source: WHO*

[Psychological perspectives on obesity: addressing policy, practice and research priorities](#)
"The document seeks to guide professionals and policy makers working with individuals, groups, and populations that are impacted by obesity to take an approach that is guided by psychology." *Source: British Psychological Society*

[Routing out childhood obesity](#)
"This report outlines a range of recommendations for transforming the street environment, particularly around schools, with the ambition that all children should have access to a healthy route home." *Source: Royal Society for Public Health (UK)*

[Healthy Beverage Consumption in Early Childhood](#)
"Beverages play a critical role in young children's health as they comprise a larger portion of the recommended overall diet during early life, serving as key contributors to both hydration and nutrition. Establishing healthy beverage patterns during this period of life could be an important public health intervention to help promote adequate intake of nutrients to encourage and to reduce excess intake of nutrients to limit, which could help mitigate risk of adverse health outcomes such as dental caries and obesity. For these reasons, promoting healthy beverage intake during early childhood is a public health priority." *Source: Healthy Eating Research*

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Drug & Alcohol Use

[Dependence and withdrawal associated with some prescribed medicines: an evidence review](#)
"In 2017, the minister for public health and primary care commissioned Public Health England (PHE) to identify the scale, distribution and causes of prescription drug dependence, and what might be done to address it." *Source: Public Health England*

[**The relationship between alcohol outlets and harm**](#)
This research examines the relationship between alcohol outlets and social harm measured by Police activity and road traffic crashes. The analysis uses a longitudinal panel data set for the period 2007-2014 covering all of New Zealand. *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)*

[**The Future of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids**](#)
"This book offers a systematic assessment of the past, present, and possible futures of synthetic opioids in the United States. It is rooted in secondary data analysis, literature reviews, international case studies, and key informant interviews. The goal is to provide decisionmakers, researchers, media outlets, and the public with insights intended to improve their understanding of the synthetic opioid problem and how to respond to it." *Source: RAND Corporation*

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Child & Youth Health

[**Fostering Healthy Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Development in Children and Youth**](#)
"Fostering Healthy Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Development in Children and Youth: A National Agenda examines the gap between current research and achievable national goals for the next ten years. This report identifies the complexities of childhood influences and highlights the need for a tailored approach when implementing new policies and practices. This report provides a framework for a cohesive, multidisciplinary national approach to improving MEB health." *Source: National Academies Press*

[**The promotion of well-being among children exposed to intimate partner violence**](#)
"Exposure to IPV in childhood can have both short- and long-term negative impacts to health and well-being that persist across generations. There is therefore an increased interest in the development of intervention strategies to promote well-being following exposure. Over the last two decades, theory-driven psychosocial programmes serving children exposed to violence have been developed and established in a range of venues (e.g., school-based mental health clinics, outpatient psychotherapy settings). This review provides a synthesis of the state of this literature and implications for research and practice." *Source: Campbell Collaboration*

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Mental Health & Wellbeing

[**Can telephone counselling services help in the Pacific?**](#)
"This paper informs readers about the status of mental health services and telephone counselling services in the Pacific region and offers suggestions for further research on this topic. The paper identifies a problem (a deficit in mental health service capacity in the Pacific) and a particular modality (telephone counselling) that might address some of the challenges." *Source: Department of Pacific Affairs (ANU)*

[Towards equality for mental health: Developing a cross-government approach](#)
"This report considers in more detail the steps that must be taken if the ambition of 'parity of esteem' for mental health is to be achieved in England. Its starting point is the belief that improving the nation's mental health cannot be achieved through a focus on health services alone, vital though these are. A much more ambitious, cross-government approach to mental health is also required." *Source: Mental Health Foundation (UK)*

[The economy of well-being: Creating opportunities for people's well-being and economic growth](#)
"This paper develops the concept of an "Economy of Well-being" as a basis for highlighting these linkages and showing how policy can most effectively leverage them. The paper defines an economy of well-being around the idea of a "virtuous circle" in which individual well-being and long-term economic growth are mutually reinforcing. It also explores the characteristics of an economy of well-being and the conditions under which it can be sustained. Secondly, based on a survey of existing empirical evidence, the paper contributes to outline how economies of well-being can be built." *Source: OECD*

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Health of Older People

[World Alzheimer Report 2019: Attitudes to dementia](#)
"The report reveals the results of the largest attitudes to dementia survey ever undertaken, with almost 70,000 people across 155 countries and territories completing the survey. It spans four demographic groups: people living with dementia, carers, healthcare practitioners and the general public." *Source: Alzheimer's Disease International*

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