TAG Meeting Minutes – 24th November 2014 – 9.30-3pm

Seminar Room, Block 4 Level D Room 08, Massey University Campus, Wellington

<u>Chairperson</u>: Barry Borman (CPHR) - BB

<u>Present:</u>
David Briggs (Consultant) - DB
Janine Stocker (Environmental Protection Agency) - JC
Frances Graham (Ministry of Health) - FG
Donald Hannah (Consultant) - DH
Christian Hoerning (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) - CH
Josh Fyfe (Ministry for the Environment) - JF
Nick Kim (Institute of Food, Nutrition and Human Health, Massey University) – NK
Jill McKenzie (Hutt Valley DHB) - JM
Tim Carpenter (EpiCentre, Institute of Vet, Animal & Biomedical Sciences, Massey University) - TC
Caroline Miller (School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University) – CM
Karen Witten (SHORE and Whariki Research Centre, School of Public Health, Massey University) - KW
Deborah Read (CPHR) - DR
Kirstin Lindberg (CPHR) - KL
Helene Marsters (CPHR) - HM
Kylie Mason (CPHR) - KM
Caroline Fyfe (CPHR) - CF
Fei Xu (CPHR) – FX
Andrew Parnell (CPHR) – AP

<u>Apologies received from:</u>
Paul Brown (Statistics New Zealand) - PB
Mathu Shanthakumar (CPHR) - MS

Agenda Item	Key Points	Actions	Timescale
1. Welcome and Introductions	• Apologies accepted • Confirmation of agenda		
2. Previous minutes	• Agreed.		

3. Evaluation of Indicators - Existing Indicators	• Highlighted the indicator criteria and the EHI domains. Feedback sought on current indicator reporting methods.
	• *General comments:*
	  – If indicators are for advocacy, investigate policy change as an indicator.
	  – If using proxy indicators, outline what measures would be more suitable.
	  – Use regional or local level data when no national data is available.
	  – Indicators are more informative in the context of the different populations.
	  – Caution when reporting on standards as health effects not directly linked.
	
	• **Air quality domain**
	  • *Agreed EHI Recommendations for new measures for air quality:*
	    – Cars per 1,000 population
	    – Cars as percentage of the total number vehicles.
	    – Number of diesel vehicles
	    – Where possible monitor $PM_{2.5}$
	    – Annual average nitrogen dioxide concentration
	    – Sites exceeding the daily guideline for sulphur dioxide concentration
	  • *General comments for the air quality domain*
	    – MfE domain reports will aim to be published every three years and the compliance reporting for NES will continue annually.
	  • *Air quality topic: Motor vehicles*
	    – The validity of the indicator on vehicle age was discussed.
	    – MfE is proposing an indicator for an emissions profile for vehicles.
	    – IARC has deemed emissions from diesel vehicles as carcinogenic.
	  • *Air quality topic: Wood and coal fires*
	    – Better to use MfE's national emissions estimates from home heating than numbers of wood and coal fires.
	    – Emissions inventories are being produced and model the amount kg of PM_{10} per hectare. Most councils use these to determine targets regarding removing wood and coal fires. These are on a regional basis but cannot be used for national coverage with inconsistent methodologies and are infrequent.
	    – Proportion of households that are under a regional policy for wood burners could be used as an indicator.
		EHI team to meet with NZTA and report back on validity of using vehicle age or to use MfE vehicle emissions profile as an alternative.
		
		EHI report back on use of medium or heavy vehicles as a percentage of total vehicles as an indicator
		
		EHI report back on use of MfE emissions estimates from wood and coal fires to replace reporting number of wood and coal fires.
			May 2015 TAG meeting
			
			May 2015 TAG meeting
			
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			May 2015 TAG

Agenda Item	Key Points	Actions	Timescale
	− The numbers of wood burners is missing regional and climatic context.	EHI report back on use of the proportion of households that are under a regional policy for wood and coal fires.	meeting
	• *Air quality topic: Particulate matter*		
	− EHI to investigate the availability of data to continuously monitored $PM_{2.5}$ data and report on it where possible.		
	• *Air quality topic: Other air pollutants*		
	− NES only requires councils to monitor NO_2, SO_2 and CO if there is a reason that there may be exceedances. NZTA has a passive NO_2 sampling network with continued coverage but monitoring is monthly.		May 2015 TAG meeting
	− CO measure for outdoor air quality needs to be reviewed by EHI.	EHI report back on the availability of data to continuously monitored $PM_{2.5}$ data.	
	• **Recreational water quality domain**		
	• *Recreational water quality topic: Livestock*		May 2015 TAG meeting
	− Density of dairy cattle for the entire region is how it should be measured. Proportion of dairy cattle of all livestock is an important indicator.		
	− EHI to investigate the clean streams accord and compliance in each region.	EHI report back on the utility of NZTA's NO_2 sampling.	May 2015 TAG meeting
	− The contributing factors are complex (e.g. fencing, riparian margins, soil, run-off and stock management). Statistics New Zealand's agricultural production survey includes some of this data.		
	• *Recreational water quality topic: Suitability for swimming*	EHI to review whether CO measure is necessary.	May 2015 TAG meeting
	− EHI report back on use of LAWA data as an opportunity for an		
	− MfE has not confirmed yet about the frequency of future SFRG reporting.		
	• **Indoor environment**		
	• *General comments for the indoor environment domain*	EHI to report back on the compliance of the clean streams accord in each region.	May 2015 TAG meeting
	− New Zealand is unusual that it has a large number of unflued gas heaters. By improving insulation, the risk of poor indoor air quality increases. AC Nielsen can produce anonymised data product sales. The heaters have strict standards and would be tracked when imported. BRANZ may include data on this in their household efficiency surveys.		
	− Number of houses without heating. Climate will need to be considered.	EHI to consult with Statistics New Zealand regarding agricultural production survey data.	May 2015 TAG meeting
	• **Climate change**		
	• *General comments for the climate change domain*		
	− EHI looking into new indicators, related to heat stress and relative humidity.		
	− EHI considering urban green canopy reducing urban heat island effect.		
	• **Hazardous substances**		May 2015 TAG meeting
	• *General comments for the hazardous substances domain*	EHI to report back on the availability of	
	− EHI to investigate data for household use outside of pesticides in New Zealand.		

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	The EPA has made some changes in this area by reassessing the usage of organophosphates and carbonates, and others over time.
	– These measures are used somewhat reactionary, instead of having source measures. We can act as a result of the data
	– Using total counts for hazardous substances will not be very indicative and they would need to be broken down into specific substances.
	
	• **UV exposure**
	  • *Agreed EHI Recommendations for new measures for UV exposure*
	   – Disaggregate cancer registrations by DHB and ethnicity
	   – Include non-melanoma skin cancer deaths
	  • *General comments for the UV exposure domain*
	   – We have information about UV exposure and the ozone layer on our website but do not have it measured as an indicator as there is not much fluctuation. A person's exposure was more attributable to location and time of year.
	
	• **Biosecurity**
	  • *Biosecurity topic: A/H5N1 notifications*
	   – Agreed to remove the indicator of A/H5N1 as MoH report this.
	  • *General comments for the Biosecurity domain*
	   – Our outbreak definition is the one used by WHO/IHR.
	   – We do not conduct analyses on outbreaks because of inappropriate data.
		data about flued/unflued gas heaters
		
		EHI to report on percentage of green canopy in urban areas to reduce the urban heat island effect.
		
		EHI to investigate data for household use outside of pesticides in New Zealand.
			May 2015 TAG meeting

4. Presentation of new indicators	• Presentation of proposed new indicators for transport
	  – Proposed indicators, other topics and potential indicators
	• Proposed topics for transport indicators and environment health
	  – Use of public transport (more physical activity/less air and noise pollution, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions)
	  – Traffic injuries (Direct impact on health)
	  – Lack of transport (Barrier to accessing services)
	  – Proximity to busy roads (Exposure to air and noise pollution)
	• Feedback
	  – Difficult to attain vibration data. This is often in combination with air and noise pollution. This is why road proximity is a good indication of exposure.
	  – NZTA has commissioned some work regarding forestry and dust from roads.
	  – ECE centres now find themselves on busier roads with a higher ambient noise volume and potentially have poor air quality.
	  – European cities with a population of over ~25,000 are required to produce a		

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	noise pollution map and are having an influence on planning applications.
	  – Emission impossible did some modelling to decide the exposed population. Most health effects occur within 50-75m and at 150m the effects level out.
	• Proposed topics for alcohol and obesity indicators and environment health
	  – Initial thoughts about indicators for alcohol include: alcohol use, alcohol outlets, alcohol-related harm and alcohol-related crime.
	  – Initial thoughts about indicators for obesity include: physical activity, healthy eating and obesity and related health conditions.
	• Feedback
	  – The limitation with the NZHS in regards to the amount of time spent watching TV is that it does not other 'screen time' (computers, gaming consoles and other devices).
	  – The diabetes registry has both type 1 and 2 diabetes but type 1 only makes up less than 10% of those on the registry. Age is potentially one way to differentiate the types.
	• Built environment
	  – Currently working on the development of indicators
	• Flood vulnerability
	  – Currently working on the development of indicators
	  – Major challenge is to estimate populations areas affected.		

5. Website Update (AP/KM)	• Website was launched at the end of September. • Focus on clear indicator information. Accompanied by interactive charts and maps.		
6. CPHROnline	• The environmental health atlas is split into the EHI domains that there are regional data. • Correlation coefficient has been removed.		

7. HIGHS project	• Presentation
	  • Project update
	    ▪ Stage 1 – Descriptive analysis – maps of insulation and heating installations, key findings, in context of house age, rural/urban and socioeconomic status.
	    ▪ Stage 2 – Exploratory analysis – introduced research design to measure the impact of the insulation retrofits on health outcomes of residents.
	• Stage 1 feedback from TAG
	  – EECA always found it difficult to find service providers for rural areas.
	  – Many regional councils had subsidies to encourage installations.
	  – Coal use for heating is decreasing and only the West Coast goes against this.
	• Stage 2 feedback		

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	− Not all insulations happen through the EECA program. What is known is that the houses are ones that are built pre 2000 with insufficient insulation.		

8. **Hazardous Substance Surveillance, HSDIRT, Hazardous Substances Communications (HS/MP/DR)**	• Presentation
	  − Updates from previous TAG meeting:
	    ▪ Two new datasets (Primary health care notifications and hazardous substances incidents)
	    ▪ Key findings from Hazardous Substances Injury Report 2014
	    ▪ National HSDIRT Report 2014
	    ▪ Ad-hoc requests (Mothball poisoning, lead in toys and common substances involved in poisoning)
	    ▪ Future work: Report findings in GP-related publications, produce factsheets, and investigate poisoning injuries and area deprivation.
	• Feedback
	  − Most of the hazardous substances incidents are related to the use of LPG.
	  − >50% of hazardous substances related poison calls are in regards to 0-4 year age group and this has continued from last year.
	  − Probably low numbers of notifications through the HSDIRT tool as a result of the Canterbury rebuild. There seems to be a geographic bias thanks to more emphasis on reporting in some DHBs than others.
	  − The HSNO Act does not cover manufactured products. Person's safety in regards to manufactured products is handled by MBIE.		

9. **Environmental Burden of Disease (KM)**	• Presentation
	  − Update on the project:
	    ▪ Working on second-hand smoke exposure this year.
	    ▪ Will work on UV exposure and lead exposure using blood serum samples.
	    ▪ Second-hand smoke provisional findings.		

10. **Factsheets update**	• Presentation
	  − Update since previous TAG meeting.
	  − Factsheet design updated.
	  − New factsheets and key findings
	  − Upcoming factsheets		

11. **Other Items - Next meeting**	• Next meeting will be organised for some time in May.	Send out possible dates closer to the time.	March 2015