

Health Act Review Comments

Issue

- 3/ 3.2 Yes – promotion of public health is vitally important and the role of the Health Act could be to ensure that information is provided that promotes health and wellbeing behaviours.
- 4/ 3.2 Yes – should recognise inequalities and ensure effective promotion of health information and services and monitoring of trends in disease.
- 9/ 4.2 Yes!
- 10/ 4.2 Yes!
- 11/ 4.3 Yes, as this should be a partnership.
- 12/ 4.4 Yes – MPHP need to actually include an outcome focus and plan for how it can be implemented through use of resources. Greater integration of the planning process with key stakeholders (from other service providers, community, gov't and non-gov't, primary care bodies etc) would increase Council's accountability and also their capacity to implement MPHP plans.
- 14/ 4.4 Yes – MPHP should be set at intervals and reviewed with DHS, including to ensure the integration with stakeholders as outlined in 12/4.4 is occurring.
- 17/ 4.5 LGA should employ an MOH. It enables better networking and involvement to take place within Council, and promotes ownership of local issues in the local medical fraternity through the MOH's involvement in other areas of the community.
- 20/ 4.7 Yes, Authorised Officers should have an appropriate qualification along with other skills. Their credibility is important.
- 22/ 5.1 Secretary should continue with this function.
- 23/ 5.1 It would be very helpful for registers and databases of relevant information to be established. An example could be to establish a register on specific chronic diseases, such as diabetes, that could aid research and tracking of incidence of the disease and complications.
- 29/ 7.1 Yes – all organisations should have a Risk Management policy, and be accountable through an independent monitoring process (eg. like Worksafe).
- 30/ 7.2 Yes.
- 31/ 7.2 The approach should focus on issues that can be influenced.
- 32/ 7.2 In terms of health promotion it would be ideal to have a positive duty, that encompasses the many factors that can influence health. An example may be so that issue influenced by market forces can be limited or controlled to some degree.

- 33/ 7.2 Consequences would need to be assessed depending on the breach, however they will have little impact unless there are meaningful consequences.
- 36/ 7.2 The Duty of Care may be included in all Professional Registrations/ Accreditation annually on renewal.
- 40/ 7.4 Where appropriate best practice standards should be observed and practiced. Benchmarks are useful.
- 41/ 7.5 See 29/ 7.1
- 42/ 7.5 See 29/ 7.1
- 43/ 7.6 Criteria should include a requirement to meet relevant standards relating to hygiene privacy and safety.
- 44/7.6 Registration/licensing should account for services delivered in alternate premises. This is an issue relevant to residential care and home care environments. Perhaps include tiers for different types of service provision.
- 46/ 7.6 Yes – obligation should be to notify of any relevant incidents of a serious nature.
- 47/ 7.6 Yes, but obviously difficult to ensure it occurs unless adequate education provided.
- 49/ 7.7 Yes – there are other potentially notifiable health threats.
- 81/ 8.3 Yes – the action should be set out clearly which then establishes a standard that can be used by all.
- 80 - 87/ 8.3 to 8.5 Consideration should be given to how these points overlap with an employer's obligations under other Acts – eg. OH&S, Privacy – as practical issues can arise in relation to this when there is an incident posing a risk to public health.
- 89/ 8.5 No! There should be an appropriate psychological assessment completed where treatment is refused.
- 97/ 8.6 Should be called 'notifiable condition'.
- 99/ 8.7 Yes – should be a privacy framework for all health records.
- 100/ 8.7 Yes – count to be closed re presentation of HIV evidence/ information.
- 101/ 8.7 Possibly yes if disease is of a 'potential' discriminating nature.
- 106/ 8.8 Schools should seek immunisation records of all students, pending resources required.
- 107/ 8.8 As per 106.
- 112/ 8.9 Yes – advice from DHS should be sought.
- 117/ 9.1 Yes.

