



## COVID-19 INDEPENDENT CONTINUOUS REVIEW, IMPROVEMENT AND ADVICE GROUP: MEETING AGENDA

<b>Date &amp; time</b>	Tuesday 5 October 2021, 4.00-5.30pm
<b>Location</b>	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610684360?pwd=SWFnS3NlVjAxRC9Yc0R5NGpkdWl3OT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610684360?pwd=SWFnS3NlVjAxRC9Yc0R5NGpkdWl3OT09</a> Meeting ID: 826 1068 4360 Passcode: 721004
<b>Attendees</b>	Sir Brian Roche (Chair), Debbie Ryan, Dale Bramley, Philip Hill, Rob Fyfe, Louise Cox (DPMC), Amber Bill (DPMC); Natasha D'Costa (DPMC, Item 1); Rob Huddart (DPMC, Item 1), Ruth Fairhall (DPMC, Item 2)

	Agenda item	Duration	Lead
1.	Reconnecting New Zealanders Programme	15 min	Rob, Natasha
2.	Domestic vaccine certificate	30 min	Ruth
3.	Disclosures of interests and confirmation of minutes	5 min	Secretariat
4.	Report back on meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Self-isolation discussion with Carolyn – Rob</li><li>Border sprint – Rob</li><li>One-way QFT meeting with MFAT – Debbie, Philip</li><li>Meeting with the Minister - Brian</li></ul>	20 min	All
5.	Report back to group on outstanding questions	10 min	Secretariat
6.	Any other business and next meeting	10 min	All / Secretariat



# COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 5 October 2021	
<b>Time</b>	4:00-6:00pm	
<b>Venue</b>	Zoom	
<b>Attendees</b>	Sir Brian Roche (Chair) Debbie Ryan Dale Bramley Philip Hill Rob Fyfe	Amber Bill (DPMC) Louise Cox (DPMC) Rob Huddart (DPMC) (Item 1) Ruth Fairhill (DPMC) (Item 2) Megan Stratford (DPMC) (Item 2)
<b>Minute taker</b>	Louise Cox	

## Item 1: Reconnecting New Zealanders programme update

1. Rob Huddart provided a progress update on the Reconnecting New Zealanders workstreams.

### *Border workstream*

2. Rob H advised that the health traveller declaration system is due to be ready on 24 February 2022. Brian asked how the timeline fits with the other sprint timelines. Rob H responded that there are options for manual recording of information that can be used as an interim system, but that there would be limits on the ability to scale up.
3. There was discussion on the differences with the approach to Recognised Seasonal Workers that are able to enter New Zealand. It was noted that while the Pacific countries that are included in the one-way Quarantine-Free Travel scheme are considered low risk, and that in the Group's view this is still an assumption to be tested.

### *Managed Isolation and Quarantine workstream*

4. Rob H acknowledged recent feedback from the Group on the portfolio report and noted the intention for the Managed Isolation and Quarantine workstream work to move at pace.

### *Self-isolation pilot workstream*

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## Item 2: Domestic vaccine certificate

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### *Draft transitional model for COVID-19 response*

6. Prior to the discussion on the domestic vaccine certificate Ruth provided an update on the draft transitional model for COVID-19 response. She informed that a paper went to Cabinet on Monday 4 October. She detailed the feedback that was incorporated into the paper and noted that a summary of feedback (including from the Group) was included. Ruth advised that the next steps are to:
- discuss with agencies who were not part of original consultation to establish what it might mean for their sectors
  - look at the measures
  - determine the indicators for risk assessment.
7. Ruth referenced modelling work by Te Pūnaha Matatini and noted that advice from the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SPHAG) is due on Friday 8 October which will input into policy considerations. The Secretariat agreed to forward the commissioning questions underpinning SPHAG's advice. Ruth also confirmed that David Murdoch's testing advice is relevant to the public health response elements.

### *Discussion on domestic vaccine certificate*

8. The Group discussed consultation material provided by the DPMC policy team in advance of the meeting.
9. Rob raised the juxtaposition of a precise and cautious approach to the border to the proposed less cautious approach in the use of a domestic vaccine passport and suggested the consultation material proposes exposing people to more risk than necessary. He noted that the business community are seeking clarity and firm action from Government.
10. Philip raised, for the sake of time efficiency and added value, that the Group could consider and provide feedback on the basic principles rather than the detail of subtexts.
11. Group members raised that there are inconsistencies within the framework between events of similar risk. Dale put forward that the criteria needs to be evidence based and applied in a consistent manner. He noted that the criteria look reasonable but questioned from where they have derived.
12. Debbie questioned how the framework would be used to incentivise vaccine hesitant people in higher risk populations. She used the example of younger Pacific men who are more likely to be Christian and not vaccinated – mandatory requirements for faith-based services would incentivise this population group to become vaccinated.
13. Brian echoed the need to have clear principles and consistent application, and for the certificate to be seen as a tool to incentivise and support achieving vaccination levels to 90 percent. He raised that employers are going to be keen to understand how this will help them to meet their health and safety requirements and obligations, and for messaging to be

considered here. He furthered that business and event owners will adapt if they wish to be prudent, noting that legal basis needs to be unequivocal.

14. Megan explained that there are lots of settings of high risk and that there is a need to balance the management of risk versus equity, social license and social cohesion concerns. She noted that the mandatory category would apply at all alert levels and that she would expect there would be a high take up based on guidance provided for the optional category noting that following the guidance will help support staying in business/opening up during escalations of alert levels. She noted however the opportunities to incentivise vaccine hesitant groups. Megan also noted that feasibility is a relevant factor. For example, it may be operationally more challenging at non-ticketed events versus ticketed.
15. Philip suggested that a proper epidemiologically based methodology is produced that is subjected to peer review.
16. There was discussion on habitual behaviour, and it was raised that turning on and off requirements as alert levels shift may compromise the formation of good habits. Repeatable behaviours support high compliance levels. It was also raised that super spreader events often happen during times when it is not known there are community cases. Debbie supported sentiments to simplify the system. She noted that feedback from Pacific communities indicates widespread confusion.
17. There was discussion on the public health criteria and Dale raised that it appears that these criteria are being applied to multiple purposes. He suggested that the first principles should be the purpose of the vaccine certificate system, then look at evidence and application. There was further discussion on whether there are incongruities within the purpose (such as incentivising versus public health). Dale noted that there can be, but the primary goal is to get as many people vaccinated which supports a more stringent approach initially. Brian articulated the idea of a two-phase approach:
  - 1 Vaccinate up the population with a degree of public safety (through a stringent approach to the vaccine certificate)
  - 2 Apply public health evidence-based exemptions.
18. Debbie raised the cases among gang communities and stated the need to think about how to manage in regard to social cohesion and the role of Police in compliance.
19. The Group acknowledged that they value the opportunity to engage and are willing to look at the next draft.

### **Item 3: Disclosures of interests and confirmation of minutes**

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20. No disclosures of interests and minutes confirmed pending minor changes.



## **Item 4: Report back on meetings**

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### *Self-isolation conversation with Carolyn Tremain*

21. Rob provided a brief report back on his recent conversation with Carolyn Tremain, CE of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). He noted that he conveyed that there were missed opportunities to engage with business in the development of the self-isolation pilot. In regard to the randomised ballot to select pilot participants Philip noted that usual practice is to select the right people to reflect the aims of a pilot.
22. There was discussion on whether there was any movement in the concept of private provision of managed isolation and quarantine. Rob reported that there is no progress but that the focus for MIQ has been to optimise the existing model, noting that resource constraints limit the ability to introduce further complexity of a new pathway.
23. Dale raised that that modelling shows that there may be more cases in a month than we saw in the last peak and that may force decisions on quarantine alternatives. Rob noted the ACT model in Australia where cases are left in their home and other family members shifted into hotels. He raised that we need to explore the range of practices occurring overseas.
24. The Secretariat raised that system ownership of self-isolation is not yet clarified. Debbie raised the point that this, along with MIQ capacity, raises serious concerns and equity issues.
25. Brian noted that he and Rob are meeting with Chris Bunny, the new head of MIQ at MBIE on 18 October.

### *Border sprint meeting*

26. Rob updated the Group on the meeting with Adrian Littlewood, Christine Stevenson and the Prime Minister on the border sprint work. He noted the agreement to carry out a shortened MIQ trial before Christmas. There was discussion on the evidence that supports shorter MIQ stays in the context of the Delta variant. Rob noted the impressive work that has occurred in this sprint.

### *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – one-way quarantine-free travel*

27. The Secretariat reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have acknowledged receipt of the memo prepared by Debbie and Philip for Brian. The Secretariat also acknowledged that they could have signalled the relevant Cabinet papers earlier to the Group to enable them to have earlier input.
28. Brian raised that the key question to answer is what mitigations are in place to protect workers and communities they are living in.
29. Debbie raised the point that there needed to be more senior expertise involved in engagement with Vanuatu who were more familiar with Vanuatu's systems.

*Meeting with the Minister for COVID-19 Response*

- 30. Brian briefly reported back on his meeting with the Minister for COVID-19 response to discuss the Group’s advice based on observations from the current Delta outbreak. He noted they are meeting again on 13 October 2021.
- 31. Brian suggested it would be timely with the Group to meet with the Minister again in person.

**Item 5: Report back to the Group on outstanding questions**

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- 32. The Secretariat reported to the Group that all questions the Group raise are being tracked through a spreadsheet. The Secretariat noted they will circulate the spreadsheet.

**Item 6: Other business**

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- 33. Dale gave an update on what is occurring on the ground in Auckland. He noted that the new clusters in marginal communities brought challenges due to transience, suspicion of government and difficulty to engage. New ways of engaging require more time and complexity. Dale reported that while hospitals are coping at the moment, there are ongoing impacts (including on community services) and concern about potential rises in cases over the next month.
- 34. Brian enquired about the status of David Murdoch’s testing report and the Secretariat noted they will seek agreement to share with the Group.
- 35. s9(2)(a) [redacted]

**Action register – Live actions**

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	Date of meeting	Action	Responsible owner	Comments
1	15 June 2021	Brian and the Secretariat will discuss the idea of inviting s9(2)(a) to a future meeting to discuss the vaccine roll out in the context of equity.	DPMC Secretariat	Follow up with Group
4	15 June 2021	Write up the scope of the proposed NSW conversation and share with the Group	DPMC Secretariat	On hold while NSW are dealing with the current outbreak.
11	10 August 2021	Revert to the Group on the updated vaccination strategy	DPMC Secretariat	Continuing to monitor

	Date of meeting	Action	Responsible owner	Comments
12	10 August 2021	Assess agendas of CICRIAG and Community Panel for synergies, and revert to Group	DPMC Secretariat	Ongoing
16	7 September 2021	Connect in with the Ministry of Health on the next review of the Surveillance Strategy	DPMC Secretariat	Follow up end of October
20	7 September 2021	Identify TAG contact for forwarding correspondence from the business sector.	DPMC Secretariat	Completed
23	5 October 2021	Forward the SPHAG questions to the Group	DPMC Secretariat	
24	5 October 2021	Arrange meeting with the Minister and the full Group	DPMC Secretariat	
25	5 October 2021	Circulate questions tracking spreadsheet to the Group	DPMC Secretariat	
26	5 October 2021	Share the Testing Advisory Group's rapid testing review report	DPMC Secretariat	

Proactively Released