



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

<b>Date &amp; time</b>	Tuesday 7 September 2021, 4-5.30pm
<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); Rob Huddart (DPMC; Item 1) Gill Hall (Ministry of Health; Item 2); James Harris (Ministry of Health; Item 2)

	Agenda item	Duration	Lead
1.	Reconnecting New Zealanders programme update	15 min	Rob H
2.	Surveillance Strategy peer review and response	20 min	Gill
3.	Disclosures of interests and confirmation of minutes	5 min	Secretariat
4.	Report back on meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Sparks and the Community Panel (Debbie)</li> <li>s9(2)(b)(ii) / Carolyn Tremain (Rob and Brian)</li> <li>(Brian, Rob)</li> </ul>	10 min	All
5.	Institutional arrangements advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next steps and timing</li> </ul>	5 min	Secretariat
6.	Real-time continuous improvement – Delta outbreak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft summary note and further observations</li> </ul>	20 min	Brian
7.	Health system preparedness and capacity – response from MOH	10 min	Brian
8.	Any other business and next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community panel</li> </ul> <p><i>Next meeting</i></p> <p>Ministry of Health-led reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Rio De La Plata maritime incident</li> <li>Review of Sydney to Wellington traveller case in the community.</li> </ul>	5 min	All / Secretariat



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

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 7 September 2021	
<b>Time</b>	4:00-5:30pm	
<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) Griere Cox (DPMC) (Item 1 only) James Harris (MOH) (Item 2 only) Kirk Fitzpatrick (MOH) (Item 2 only) Dan Bernal (MOH) (Item 2 only)
<b>Minute taker</b>	Louise Cox	

## Item 1: Reconnecting New Zealanders programme update

1. Griere Cox, Chief of Staff, gave an update on the Reconnecting New Zealanders programme. As part of the programme, advice is being prepared on strategic investment horizons and the future response system and an update paper is going to the COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board (CCB) next week.
2. Griere noted there are a range of factors relating to key functions of the response system that are key to decision-making, including:
  - border protections
  - vaccinations
  - capacity to quarantine domestic cases and isolate contacts
  - testing capacity
  - health infrastructure investment
  - contact tracing capacity.
3. Brian noted that there are several themes emerging from the Delta outbreak that explicitly need to be advanced to support the Reconnecting New Zealanders programme (such as the testing strategy, health infrastructure, etc). Brian also noted that there appears to be no ownership, discussion or prioritisation on what has to be done for early next year decisions.

4. Rob raised that there needs to be articulation of the pre-conditions for opening the borders. Dale furthered that good modelling based on what the future looks like is needed, as well as a full readiness assessment of different system components. He suggested that rapid work is needed to look at the future state versus the current state to identify gaps and determine how to bridge those gaps.
5. Griere updated the Group on work in train to define some key scenarios over 6-month, 2-year, and 5-year timeframes. She noted that the scenarios will be based on both optimistic and pessimistic hypotheses (both domestically and globally). Griere agreed to keep the Group informed about progress in this space.
6. Brian expressed his desire for the Group to liaise on components of the programme as much as possible on an ongoing basis.

## **Item 2: Surveillance Strategy peer review and response**

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7. The Secretariat introduced the MOH staff who had joined to discuss the Surveillance Strategy (the Strategy) peer review and MOH's response.
8. MOH outlined the background including that the peer review came by way of recommendation by the Group. They noted that a lesson that has come out of this is the need to move to a more frequent review cycle. The next review cycle is in November and they invited the Group to have input. Brian raised that he is interested to know how lessons from the Delta outbreak will feed into the next iteration, particularly in respect of the future opening of borders.
9. There was discussion on whether there will be the need to manage acute outbreaks following border reopening. The Group put forward that there will be incursions of COVID-19 that need to be managed and consideration needs to be given to what needs to be in place in the Strategy and Testing Plan for that scenario. MOH noted that they need to progress some use of technologies that have not yet been progressed to date such as rapid antigen testing.
10. Rob suggested they focus the framework on the available toolkit and roll the clock forward to next year when we may have reduced defences at the border due to less restrictions. What is required of the surveillance system in that future context should be reviewed against the available tool kit to identify the problem definition. There was further discussion on the benefits of looking ahead to inform further iterations of the Strategy and Testing Plan including observing what has happened in other countries and the likely scenario of more cases entering communities.
11. Debbie raised that the Delta outbreak is one of a pattern of infectious disease outbreaks in South Auckland and asked whether there has been thinking or evaluation of whether the Strategy is adequate given Auckland is now in a prolonged outbreak. MOH noted that equity was strengthened in the latest iteration of the Strategy but acknowledged that there is more can be done to find the right balance in terms of focus on diverse populations. Debbie raised that the modelling and assumptions of behaviours do not necessarily reflect communities.

12. Dale noted that there was luck with the index case being a prolific scanner who sought medical aid and testing, given the low levels of testing and scanning in New Zealand. That combined with an immediate response from the Government were key factors in potentially preventing a larger outbreak. He furthered that required behaviours and how to maintain those behaviours should inform the Strategy.
13. Philip raised that a concise and clear Strategy should be a key goal and that strategies from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Public Health England (PHE) are good examples to use as models. He suggested that repetition and the use of multiple audiences could be removed for clarity and that a clear plan for domestic borders should be included. Brian reinforced that a more streamlined and simple Strategy will serve the country well.
14. It was noted that the Group are interested in remaining connected with the ongoing work.

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

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15. No disclosures of interest and the minutes of 24 August were confirmed with no amendments required.

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

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#### *Meetings with Sarah Sparks and the Community Panel*

16. Debbie gave an update on her meeting with Sarah Sparks (Chair of the Community Panel), and the Community Panel meeting she attended as an observer.
17. Sarah discussed a data allocation tool that her community have developed. Debbie noted that through the conversation it was agreed that it would be more helpful to connect Sarah with people in the funding space to progress the initiative.
18. In her report back on the Community Panel Debbie noted that her attendance was to build a better connection between the Group and Panel and that the idea is for members of the Group to take turns attending. She noted the diverse membership and the usefulness of insights from direct lived experience. Some of the key themes of the discussion were:
  - mental health
  - digital inclusivity
  - social and food availability issues
  - quality of information to different communities.

#### *Meetings with s9(2)(b)(ii) , and Carolyn Tremain*

19. Rob and Brian reported on their conversation with s9(2)(b)(ii) . Rob reported that the conversation was constructive and that they are happy to be involved in proposing design options to inform policy decision-making on future Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities. Brian noted there was useful

discussion on what the amenity value is that will be sought from any facility. Further to the report back, Brian noted that dedicated medical facilities for quarantine should form part of the pre-conditions for reopening borders.

20. Rob also briefly reported back on his and Brian's meeting with Carolyn Tremain, Chief Executive of Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment. Rob noted that Carolyn is engaged in the need for work in the space of future MIQ facilities, and that she has had an initial conversation with Ministers Hipkins and Robertson.

Meeting with <sup>s9(2)(b)(ii)</sup>

21. <sup>s9(2)(b)(ii)</sup>

22. Brian observed from the conversation that there are a lot of people outside the response system that are doing a lot of thinking and that there needs to be better avenues for this type of thinking to inform government thinking.

### **Item 5: Institutional arrangements advice**

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23. The Secretariat noted that institutional arrangements work was addressed in the Reconnecting New Zealanders programme update and reiterated that the update paper going to the CCB will cover scenario planning, strategic investment horizons and the need for form-follows-function thinking.
24. Rob raised that there would be benefit in having a half or full day workshop with the right people in the room to agree a common view of the future in terms of what they want the world to look like, including collective commitments to achieving that goal. Brian expressed support for the idea and suggested that it is taken forward. The Secretariat raised the risk of parallel work occurring and noted there is an opportunity to meld processes together.
25. The Secretariat suggested Brian and Rob could raise the idea at a CCB meeting. Brian said he will raise it at the 'Chair of Chairs' meetings also. The Secretariat noted that DCEs had taken part in a strategic investment horizons workshop in recent weeks.

### **Item 6: Real-time continuous improvement – Delta outbreak**

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26. There was in-depth discussion on the Group's observations from the current Delta outbreak. The discussion focussed primarily on:
- how observations have surfaced the need to identify and articulate what the pre-conditions are for Reconnecting New Zealanders decision-making
  - what the key and urgent areas to address are

- articulation of the end goal for New Zealanders' that is being sought and how that informs system design and settings.

27. It was agreed that the Group's observations from the Delta outbreak and their impact on Reconnecting New Zealanders will be captured through a draft letter to the Minister for COVID-19 Response by the Secretariat and circulated back to the Group over the coming day or so.

## **Item 7: Health system preparedness and capacity – response from MOH**

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28. The Group discussed MOH's response to the set of questions on health system preparedness and capacity.

29. s9(2)(g)(i)

30. s9(2)(g)(i)

31. s9(2)(g)(i)

## **Item 8: Other business and next meeting**

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32. Brian requested that David Murdoch is invited to the next meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Testing Advisory Group (TAG). Rob asked whether the TAG had any secretariat support or a contact that he can forward correspondence to that he receives from the business community.

33. The Group discussed their positive personal experiences and feedback they have received from others on the vaccination roll out. They noted that the current rate of vaccination is the highest in the OECD for vaccinations per capita per day. Dale recounted a positive example of a pharmacy displaying ingenuity that saw them being able to vaccinate 12-1300 people in one day. They observed that these are examples of how setting basic parameters without overdesigning and then letting others get on with delivery can achieve great outcomes.

## Action register – Live actions

	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	Raise at meeting on 21 September.
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
12	10 August 2021	Assess agendas of CICRIAG and Community Panel for synergies, and revert to Group	DPMC Secretariat	Ongoing
13	10 August 2021	Summarise inputs from Delta scenario planning and share with Group	DPMC Secretariat	Complete – emailed on 13/8
15	24 August 2021	Summarise discussion into continuous improvement note	DPMC Secretariat	Complete – summary note superseded by advice letter
16	7 September 2021	Connect in with the Ministry of Health on the next review of the Surveillance Strategy	DPMC Secretariat	
17	7 September 2021	s9(2)(b)(ii)	Brian	
18	7 September 2021	Raise the 'common future world view' workshop concept with the CCB and discuss at the Chair of Chairs meeting	Brian and Rob	
19	7 September 2021	Invite David Murdoch to the next meeting	DPMC Secretariat	

	Date of meeting	Action	Responsible owner	Comments
20	7 September 2021	Identify TAG contact for forwarding correspondence from the business sector.	DPMC Secretariat	

Proactively Released

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