



Community Panel Meeting Minutes

Date	1 June 2022
Time	6.00-7.00pm
Venue	Zoom
Attendees	Margaret Brown, Sarah Sparks, Kay Baxter (DPMC Policy), Alice Hume (DPMC Strategy & Policy), Julie-Ann Mail (DPMC Engagement), Amber Bill (DPMC General Manager), Emma Francis (DPMC Secretariat)
Chair	Sarah Sparks
Minute taker	Emma Francis
Apologies	Michelle Mascoll, Hafsa Ahmed, Aram Kim, Api Talemaitoga, Callum Woodhouse, Jordon Milroy, Louise Cox (DPMC)

Items 1: Welcome and confirmation of minutes

1. Sarah opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted the apologies that had been received.
2. Agreement of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Item 2: Feedback on upcoming Cabinet paper on new COVID-19 variants

3. Kay Baxter and Alice Hume attended the meeting to give an overview of an upcoming Cabinet paper on preparing for new COVID-19 variants and gather the members' feedback on a PowerPoint pack circulated ahead of the meeting. The slides included some planning assumptions, five possible scenarios, context on what the new variant could look like, some feedback from communities based on what we've already heard over the past two years, as well as several questions. The DPMC Policy team were keen to better understand how the baseline and response measures would affect or have affected their communities. That way, it will be known whether measures put in place are justifiable, dependent on the severity of the variant. The team were also keen to understand any initial thoughts the Community Panel may have on how to effectively support whānau and enable community preparedness.

Kay reflected on previous meetings with the Community Panel and how their insights and feedback had been incorporated, for example, a focus now on resilience.

4. The following insights and comments were raised:

- Communities being able to undertake planning activities in advance of a new variant of concern emerging will no doubt be well-received, however the correct timing of sharing that requires further discussion. Some thinking is required on how to effectively help and empower communities to build on the progress they've already made throughout the pandemic. In particular youth communities who are disengaging with the pandemic.
- It was noted that the New York Times website has an area of resources for public service topics and the panel queried if this could be done with major online news outlets such as Stuff and the NZ Herald.
- The Panel noted that a variant with high clinical severity and high immune escape (scenario 4 in the slide pack) will be devastating for many communities, requiring measures in place to limit the impacts.
- The Chair questioned what is being done with regards to policy to incorporate Te Tiriti and suggested the Policy team take a look at the recommendations in the Haumaru COVID-19 Priority Report.
- Partnerships and relationships with tangata whenua is of the utmost importance and cannot be lost going forward. Concerns were raised around the vulnerability of Māori, as well as their regional pre-dispositions.
- More resources are required to gather intelligence on where the greatest needs are to be able to ensure that resourcing is prioritised, such as in the disabled or lower income communities. It was suggested that the Policy team refer to the recent mahi regarding frameworks for disabled people. The Chair suggested that the Ministry for Disabled People which will take effect from 1 July 2022 could be involved in the future planning work, noting that the disabled community has been severely affected and disadvantaged throughout the pandemic.
- Public and private sector collaboration has produced great outcomes around New Zealand. The use of this would no doubt be beneficial in the future if funding is made available and data outputs are shared publicly.
- The concept of Community Connectors, using existing people with the required skills already in a community has been a powerful tool throughout the COVID-19 response. To be effective, this requires high-trust contract flexibility as issues often arise where the scope of the contract is not clear, there is no provision of a contract or a delay in payment. Sourcing extra funding may be difficult, so there will likely be a need to find a way to programmes of work within current funding streams. The Chair highlighted the legal obligations decision makers have to Te Tiriti.
- The value of having a Community Panel (regardless of membership) that decision and policy makers can stand up when required was discussed.
- It is vital that the systems, processes, frameworks and key documents are in place and accessible for succession planning after the COVID-19 Group is disestablished.
- Case law has now been developed relating to the COVID-19 response that wasn't there prior.
- A 'think-tank' hui to inform decisions from a whole of system perspective was suggested. This intelligence from around New Zealand could be called upon to

inform the government when required and would also serve the purpose of fostering important relationships.

- It was agreed that communities have achieved some incredible things throughout the pandemic, and this should be celebrated. A communications opportunity could be used to share stories of outstanding people who have helped their communities and include celebrating the younger cohort as the community leaders of the future.
 - The Chair suggested that the Policy team look into the findings of Sir Peter Gluckman's report currently underway on values as well as his previous report on social cohesion.
5. The Chair thanked DPMC for the opportunity to comment on the scenarios before the paper goes to Cabinet. The Community Panel were thanked for their mahi and insightful feedback that will be taken into consideration when crafting the Cabinet paper.
 6. The meeting closed at 7.13pm

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