

Memo

To Adrienne Young Cooper, Chair Housing New Zealand
From Greg Groufsky, Acting Chief Executive
Date 13 July 2016
Subject Advice on Methamphetamine Threshold
For your information

This memo provides an update on the progress and timeframe for delivery of advice to the Board on the implementation of an interim methamphetamine threshold in advance of the release of the New Zealand Methamphetamine Standard.

Development of the advice is proceeding at pace, however; the Ministry of Health (MoH) is now seeking a second opinion from a California based toxicologist on Dr Nick Kim's work. You will recall that Dr Kim's work forms the basis of the recommendation for Housing New Zealand to potentially lift its methamphetamine contamination threshold. Dr Kim also provided his advice to the New Zealand Standards Technical Committee (on which MoH is represented).

Based on what we have been told, initial MoH feedback is that the toxicologist has three areas where they disagree with the approach Dr Kim has taken. Because the toxicologist's work is not complete we don't know at this point whether it will support a 1.5 threshold or not.

This development creates a risk for the Housing New Zealand Board and Ministers as the second opinion may not agree with that of Dr Kim. This would place two government entities in different positions and could create unwanted complications.

MoH have put a rush on this work and it should be available within the next week or so.

My intention is for us to hold back on presenting the paper to the Executive team and the Board until the second opinion has come in (MoH has indicated that they are very happy to share it with us). This will enable the provision of more complete advice for consideration.

We are still obtaining our second opinion as we have already commissioned this and the more technical advice addressing this issue the better.

While this would create a delay of perhaps 10 days to distribute the delivery of advice to the Board, management can continue to work in the background on the plan to implement the 1.5 standard so that we are in a better position to proceed, if and when, the proposed interim threshold is approved.

Clear in my mind, is that we want to have excellent execution here and deliver a defensible result for all parties.

Greg Groufsky
Acting Chief Executive.

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