

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

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Proposed National CDEM Strategy 2007 Submissions
CDEM Policy
Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 805
Wellington

Dear Sir/Madam

Comments from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) on the draft National Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Strategy 2007

1. Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service to provide comments on the draft National CDEM Strategy 2007.
2. This submission represents the views of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS). ARPHS provides public health services for the three district health boards in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism for the Service resting with Auckland District Health Board. This submission represents the views of the ARPHS and does not necessarily represent the views of the three District Health Boards.
3. ARPHS understands that all submissions will be available under the Official Information Act 1982, except if grounds set out under the Act apply.
4. The primary contact point for this submission is

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Introduction

5. The Auckland region faces a number of public health challenges through changing demographics, increasingly diverse communities, outstanding infrastructure needs, the balancing of transport needs, and the reconciliation of urban design and urban intensification issues.
6. Policy to affect health gain is often marginalised to medical care. However, health is influenced by a broad range of policy decisions and is not solely the responsibility of the health sector. Planning and policy decisions by central government, local government and non-government agencies can have a large impact.
7. There is a shared responsibility between the health sector, local authorities, central government agencies, non governmental organisations and individual community members, to advance population health and community wellbeing. There is a need to foster stronger partnerships that work collaboratively to improve the health of the people of the Auckland region.
8. ARPHS has identified six 'vital few' service delivery outcomes that it believes are critical to achieving public health, these are a:
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of infectious disease.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of tobacco and alcohol related harm.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of cancer.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of environmental inequalities.
 - Reduction in the adverse effects of environmental hazards.
9. ARPHS has statutory responsibilities under Section 31 of the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2005 to plan for public health emergencies.
10. ARPHS is a member of the Auckland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, Co-ordinating Executive Group and Northern Region Health Coordination Group.
11. ARPHS works closely with the Ministry of Health, three District Health Boards emergency services, seven Councils and communities across the Auckland Metro region to minimise the threat and effects of public health risks, which may include human disease e.g. Pandemic influenza, vector-borne disease, food and drinking water contamination, sanitary infrastructure failure etc.

General Comments:

1. ARPHS recognises the challenges and supports progress the Government and MCDEM are making in the CDEM area.
2. ARPHS supports in principle the draft National CDEM Strategy 2007 vision, goals and objectives as the common outcomes will benefit the long term health of NZ communities.

Specific Comments:

1. ARPHS is concerned that the draft Strategy provides little or no guidance on HOW the goals and objectives are to be implemented.

The strategy says that it isn't including 'work plan (action) items, so perhaps we should say something along the lines of:

"We note that the strategy doesn't include 'work plan (action) items, however ARPHS believes that Guidance on "HOW do we do this or achieve this" is missing from the strategy and needs to be included to help implementation"..

Where are the tools, what are the skill sets needed to empower and assist all NZers to achieve these Goals and objectives?

Recommendation: ARPHS recommends that "How to" guidance is included under each objective in the Strategy with links to supporting CDEM documents.

2. ARPHS is disappointed with the change of focus that the current version of the Strategy has adopted, by removing Target outcomes and Actions

Target outcomes and Actions provided a nationally consistent framework for CDEM planning priorities, directions, and accountabilities across respective agencies.

It is ARPHS view that the strategy should include a minimum set of National high level prioritised Target outcomes and Actions.

Similarly targets and actions supported a standardised and coordinated planning focus and provided opportunities for clusters, capacity and capability building and interoperability across CDEM and partner agencies.

Recommendation: ARPHS recommends that the strategy should include a minimum set of National high level prioritised Target outcomes and Actions, including an approach to working with Maori, Pacific and other vulnerable communities, against which progress can be measured.

Conclusion:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the National CDEM Strategy.

As it will be 10 years before the next review of the National CDEM Strategy it is important to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are considered before the final National CDEM Strategy is presented for approval.

Yours sincerely

Dr Julia Peters
Professional and Clinical Director
Auckland Regional Public Health Service