



MSD prepares for Cruickshank



Janine Dowding

“The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is making good progress in its preparations for a possible pandemic influenza outbreak, and for its part in Exercise Cruickshank” says Janine Dowding, General Manager, National Operations - Work and Income.

Janine also chairs the National Welfare Recovery Coordination Group (NWRCG), which is responsible for planning the national coordination of welfare services and support in an emergency.

“The Ministry of Social Development has mandated responsibilities from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management for leading the welfare cluster (NWRCG) in an emergency.

“This group meets regularly and has been actively involved in national welfare responses to emergencies such as the lower North Island floods and more recently the Canterbury snow event. The challenge of the pandemic scenario is that it will require a completely different service response from the welfare sector,” she says.

The NWRCG includes the following agencies: MSD, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Internal Affairs, IRD, Auckland City Council, NZ Red Cross, Insurance Council NZ, Victim Support, RNZSPCA, ACC, Te Puni Kokiri, Civil Defence, The Salvation Army and Housing New Zealand.

Participating agencies should have a pandemic focus in their Business Continuity plans to enable them to deliver their essential services. The usual role played by central government agencies in coordinating an emergency welfare response is likely to change depending on the severity of the pandemic because of the need to fulfill critical core business functions and the requirement to work in different ways to minimize disease spread.

Within the Ministry of Social Development, Regional Commissioners have been briefed on exercise Cruickshank and are currently in the process of contacting their local DHBs to discuss their level of involvement in the exercise. Regional Commissioners are involved in the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) structure through Welfare Advisory Groups (WAGs), which are a part of CDEM Groups. The exact role of CDEM Group WAG's in a pandemic needs to be clarified with each DHB.

CDEM Group WAGs include both Government and non-Government members from the welfare sector and operate under CDEM Group direction and arrangements. Currently WAGs play a practical “hands on” role in emergency management. However, given the wide-ranging impact of a pandemic it is reasonable to assume that WAGs will operate in a different manner - likely becoming a point of advice for community groups, rather than a delivery mechanism for services.

“This exercise will provide the various sectors with a good opportunity to get clarity on their respective roles and responsibilities. We need to be sure of our commitments and our ability to meet them particularly at a local level,” says Janine Dowding.

MSD has recently work-shopped the pandemic scenario to review its current level of preparedness. The focus was on the welfare services required (MSD's essential services) and the corresponding alternative service delivery model that may be needed to respond to the various pandemic phases.

The Welfare sector is looking forward to participating in Exercise Cruickshank, seeing it as a good opportunity to learn, put their plans into practice and be better prepared for the real thing.

Day by Day activity

Exercise Cruickshank will occur over five days in May 2007, and will validate the intersectoral response at all four stages of the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan (NZIPAP). Each of the four stages will take place on different days. Here is a summary of the schedule for the five days of the exercise;

Day one , the “keep it out” stage: 10th May 2007

Day one will focus on keeping the disease out of New Zealand, so the main focus will be on border control. Refer to scenario 5.1 of the NZIPAP for more detailed information about this stage.

Day two the “stamp it out” stage: 16th May 2007

Day two looks at stamping out small clusters of the disease which make it into New Zealand. Refer to scenario 5.2 of the NZIPAP for more detailed information about this stage.

Day three the “manage it” stage: 17th May 2007

Day three looks at how to best manage the situation of a disease outbreak in New Zealand with a 40% incidence rate and a 2% case fatality rate. Refer to scenario 6.3 of the NZIPAP for more detailed information about this stage.

Days four and five, the recovery stage: 23 & 30th May 2007

Days four and five will familiarise agency participants with issues that will need to be addressed when recovering from pandemic influenza. Day four will consist of local workshops held around the country and on day five a National Recovery Workshop will take place in Wellington for National agencies.

Exercise writers

A team of writers from a variety of participating organisations has been assembled to develop the scenarios and injects for Exercise Cruickshank. This group is in place to make sure that scenarios are as realistic as possible.

The agencies that are represented on this group are: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Development, Crown Law, Customs, Treasury, Ministry of Education, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development.

Exercise Instruction: Common Elements

The Exercise Cruickshank project team are currently hard at work on the next document which is integral to the development of the Exercise, the *Exercise Instruction: Common Elements*.

This document defines the aims, outputs, assignment of tasks, and expected response for each organisation taking part in Exercise Cruickshank. It particularly highlights the elements of the exercise that are common to all participating organisations and is intended to assist you all in developing your own Exercise General Instruction.

This document is due to be released on Friday March 9 and will be available to be downloaded from the exercise website:

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/pandemicinfluenza-exerciseprogramme-cruickshank>

Intersectoral Advisory Group members

John Ladd

New Zealand Customs Service

John had over 33 years in the Royal New Zealand Navy with all of the management, leadership and personal experience that such a career involves. He left the Navy to start a career in the Public Service. Currently, John is the Manager, Customs Operations Coordination. Amongst other things he is responsible for the coordination of operations within and between Customs and other government agencies (including the Government's pandemic planning process). John holds a Master of Public Policy from VUW.

Jim Stuart-Black

New Zealand Fire Service

Jim has an extensive background in the field of emergency management including major incident planning and operational response coordination, technical rescue, counter-terrorism and interagency crisis and consequence planning. His experience ranges from work with non-government organisations on international deployments, through to Regional and Central Government emergency management organisations.

Originally from the United Kingdom Jim holds an Honours degree in Disaster Management and recently co-authored a Handbook on Emergency Planning for the United Kingdom Health Protection Agency.

Mark Howell

Biosecurity New Zealand

Mark has 18 years experience as a veterinary practitioner in the Eastern Bay of Plenty before joining New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), where he was a Technical Supervisor and a Technical Specialist with the Verification Authority. He was then seconded as a Programme Manager in the area of animal products, by-products and pet food. He had roles in emergency management response within NZFSA, working closely with Biosecurity NZ in a coordinating role during Exercise Taurus and Operation Waiheke.

He has a specialised interest in the conceptual issues for emergency management and operation of comprehensive emergency management systems. He transferred to Biosecurity NZ two years ago as part of the Animal (disease) Response team and has had an ongoing role coordinating MAF and Ministry of Health roles during an avian influenza outbreak, and has worked on a number of disease responses.

Pat Helm

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Pat is a policy advisor with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. His current responsibilities in the Domestic and External Security Group include crisis management and national planning to deal with major security issues. He has managed a range of government projects involving risk methodologies, and work to improve the assessment and control of natural, technological, and other hazards/threats.

Anne Campbell

New Zealand Defence Force

As a Brigadier, Anne is New Zealand's highest-ranking female military officer. Throughout her career she has served in clinical and medical staff appointments, and has held senior health positions throughout New Zealand. While now much of her time is spent desk-bound leading the defence health sector, Brigadier Campbell has continued practicing family medicine (general practice) - her specialty - throughout her 25-year Army career. Put her in a disaster zone and she's in her element. Military Health is the art of providing health to military forces and humanitarian aid when the situation dictates. She has deployed to the aftermath of two tsunamis and a number of NZDF peacekeeping mission areas.

Mike O'Leary

Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management

Mike is responsible for the management of all of the operational processes of the Ministry, including the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC), National Warning System, National Exercise Programme and National CDEM Plan & Guide.

Gerard Prins

New Zealand Police

Gerard is the Police Manager for Emergency Management which includes the responsibility for pandemic planning. He has been in the Police for 31 years and has worked in a variety of planning and operational areas. As the manager for emergency management Gerard is responsible to ensure the provision and maintenance of effective emergency management policies and procedures for the New Zealand Police. The role includes providing Police liaison at other agency national Emergency Operation Centres as appropriate. He is currently the Team Leader of the National Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Team.

Anne Stevenson
Ministry of Social Development

Anne's career in the welfare sector spans 30 years. She has worked in a variety of roles from regional operations management to business risk, communications and change management.

Anne has extensive Work and Income national and operational experience. Her strategic and operational knowledge is integral to the support and delivery of appropriate welfare emergency management responses. Anne and her team work closely with the National Welfare Recovery Coordination Group to ensure they have the support necessary to effectively manage their functional arrangements with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Man-

agement. She is also responsible for providing national support to frontline operations in the delivery of services to the 65 plus population.

Paul Whakatihi
Poumanawa Oranga

Paul is responsible for negotiating, monitoring and auditing contracts. He is also involved with Maori Health Provider Development and Pandemic Planning in collaboration with the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board for local Iwi, Marae and the the Maori Community in Te Tau Ihu.

Previous to this Paul spent 21 years in the New Zealand Army and has held a number of operational and non operational appointments both in New Zealand and overseas.

Appoint your evaluators and facilitators now!

This is a timely reminder that the deadline for all participating organisations to appoint their evaluators and facilitators is Friday 9 March. These roles are very important as they help shape and drive the Exercise. This ultimately determines whether the Exercise is a success on the day. Please email the details of your evaluators and facilitators to: Nikki Hooper, Exercise Coordinator
Nikki_Hooper@moh.govt.nz

Orientation and briefings for evaluators and facilitators will take place during the series of regional workshops at the end of this month.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter and on anything and everything to do with the Pandemic Exercise Programme.

If you know of any innovative and creative approaches to pandemic planning in your region we would love to publish them in upcoming issues.

Please feel free to e-mail us on: birdflu@moh.govt.nz

Upcoming Events

9 March

Deadline for appointing evaluators and facilitators

23 March

DHB workshop - Northern region*

26 March

DHB workshop - Central region*

27 March

DHB workshop - Midland region*

28 March

DHB workshop - Southern region*

29 March

National workshop - Central Government agencies*

3 April 2007

DHB Communications Managers conference

4 April 2007

Whole-of-Government Communications Managers conference

10 May 2007

Cruickshank 1 'Keep it Out'

16 and 17 May 2007

Cruickshank 2 and 3 'Stamp it Out' and 'Manage It'

23 May 2007

Cruickshank 4 'Recover from It' Local workshops

30 May 2007

Cruickshank 4 'Recover from It' National workshop

* Includes orientation for evaluators' and facilitators'