



## A message from the Director-General of Health



The past 18 months have seen the Ministry of Health engage the government sector, and particularly the health sector, in a period of intensive planning for a potential influenza pandemic. This work has culminated in the development of the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan (NZIPAP).

With the NZIPAP completed it is full steam ahead with preparations for a programme of exercises that will review these plans in order to confirm and develop a robust national response.

The first of these exercises – Exercise Makgill – will involve the whole of the health sector, focusing on the cluster control (“Stamp it out”) stage of a response to a pandemic.

The exercise programme is a vital means for all of us within the health sector, including the Ministry, to practise the plans we have in place. This will ensure New Zealand is well prepared.

We appreciate how busy you all are and value your support.

*Stephen McKernan*

## Exercise Programme

The Ministry of Health is co-ordinating an Exercise Programme in 2006/07, comprising three major exercises. The Exercise Programme aims to thoroughly assess New Zealand’s plans for responding to a pandemic. The first two exercises aim to assess the most difficult aspects of pandemic planning. Lessons learnt from these initial exercises will enable existing plans to be modified and reassessed in the major exercise in May 2007.

### The exercises are:

- 1 Exercise Makgill – November 2006
- 2 Exercise Russell – February 2007
- 3 Exercise Cruickshank – May 2007.

The names of the exercises were chosen as they all relate to the 1918 influenza epidemic in New Zealand. We will be running a series of features on the people behind the names – so watch this space!

### The key objectives of the Exercise Programme are to:

- 1 gauge the capability and capacity of the health sector and central and local government agencies to respond to and recover from an influenza pandemic
- 2 review the processes for co-ordination, communication, leadership and governance during a pandemic
- 3 provide a forum for intersectoral review and discussion of pandemic plans
- 4 inform policy, operational process, capability and capacity for 2007–2010.

## Robert Haldane Makgill (1870-1946)

Photo: The Meteorological Service of New Zealand



Robert Makgill deserves to be remembered as one of the architects of New Zealand's public health system in the twentieth century, according to Prof. Geoffrey Rice. During his 29 years in the Health Department he occupied at one time or another all of the senior posts, and his knowledge of New Zealand's public health system was unequalled.

At the onset of the 1918 influenza epidemic he was working for the Defence Department and was recalled when key health officers fell ill, and was largely responsible for dealing with the later phase of the crisis in the Wellington district. While Dr T. H. A. Valentine took leave in 1919-20, Makgill was acting chief health officer, and remained in the Health Department as a senior consultant until his retirement in 1932.

His report on the 1918 influenza epidemic in New Zealand was a model of careful statistical investigation; it argued against the popular belief that the infection had been introduced solely by the ship *Niagara*. The crowning achievement of his career as a public health administrator was his expert drafting of the 1920 Health

Act, which established the framework of New Zealand's public health system for the next 40 years. He was also involved in drafting the 1925 Nurses and Midwives Registration Act and drafted most of New Zealand's food and drug regulations in the 1920s.

Rice, Geoffrey W. 'Makgill, Robert Haldane 1870-1946'. Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, updated 7 April 2006  
URL: <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/>

## Exercise Makgill – 9 November 2006

**Exercise Makgill will take place over a 12-hour period and will exercise the whole of the health sector on the cluster control ('Stamp it out') stage of response to a pandemic.**

Steve Brazier, the Ministry of Health's National Coordinator of Pandemic Planning says, "To gain the most benefit out of the exercise, plans will be practised to the most realistic extent possible, within the limits of ensuring business as usual for health services."

He says that Exercise Makgill will be an 'enhanced' table-top exercise. "This means that we'll be asking people to do more than simply tick boxes; we're looking to give people a bit of a challenge around the kinds of things that could happen in a real pandemic. There will be some opportunities for realistic simulation of aspects relating to the 'Stamp it Out' stage, which deals with cluster control operations."

Steve says that the size of the exercise means there is a significant amount of preparation involved. "A team from KPMG have joined forces with the Ministry's Emergency Management team to assist in the organisation and logistics of Exercise Makgill."

"A huge amount of hard work is going on behind the scenes to ensure that this is a valuable learning experience for everyone involved. The lessons we learn from [Exercise] Makgill will enable existing plans to be modified and reassessed in the major exercise – Cruickshank – in May 2007."

# Health Sector Advisory Group members

## **Kathleen Bree**

*Service Manager, Regional Public Health  
Greater Wellington Region*

Kathleen moved to New Zealand in July from the Orkney Islands in Scotland. She holds Registered, General and Advanced Nursing qualifications with a Masters in Public Health Degree. She worked in a variety of posts in Primary and Secondary Care in the United Kingdom National Health Service.

Until leaving the United Kingdom she was the Chair of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Executive Director of Allied Health Professions and Nursing for Orkney Health Board, with responsibility for Public Health.

## **Cheryl Brunton**

*Public Health Physician and Medical Officer of Health  
Community and Public Health, Canterbury DHB*

Cheryl originally trained as a medical practitioner and worked for almost a decade in general practice and emergency medicine, before retraining as a public health medicine specialist.

From 1991, she combined management of rural district nursing and home care services, general practice liaison, and lecturing in public health at the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She became a full-time Senior Lecturer at the School in 1993, where she continues to teach and carry out research in public health, particularly in environmental health and communicable disease epidemiology.

## **John Channon**

*Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Wairarapa DHB*

John joined the British Army in 1976 and served in Northern Ireland, Oman, Greece, Bosnia, Kosovo and in Gulf War 1. During his time in the Army he was responsible for Planning Combat Operations, and Planning Exercise Scenarios.

After leaving the Army in 1999 he joined a Telecommunications Company in Saudi Arabia as Facilities Manager. During the Terrorist upsurge in Saudi Arabia he was responsible for Company Security and Counter Terrorist Training as well as compiling an Evacuation Plan prior to the start of Gulf War 2.

He has now decided to take the quiet life and settle here in lovely New Zealand.

## **John Lucas**

*Project Leader/Emergency Planner  
Otago DHB*

John is actively involved in pandemic planning for the Otago DHB and brings valuable experience in designing and running exercises to the Group.

His career in Emergency Planning started prior to 2000 when he was appointed as Y2K Project Manager to Otago DHB. He was also a member of the Ministry of Health

Working Party that travelled around providing support to DHBs in their planning for Y2K.

## **Bruce Parkes**

*Risk Management Coordinator  
St John Northern Region*

Bruce has a strong emergency service background from 30 years operational service in the New Zealand Police. He has led or been a member of a number of national health emergency management projects.

Bruce has a Master's degree in Health Management, is a Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Executives and is a Certified Internal Auditor. His prime areas of interest are primary health services and health economics.

## **Greg Simmons**

*Public Health Physician  
Auckland Regional Public Health Service*

Greg has an extensive background in public health reflected in his current position as a public health physician and spokesperson for the New Zealand Food Safe Partnership.

## **Tracy Walters**

*Chief Executive Officer  
Tihī Ora MAPO*

Tracy was formerly business manager for general medicine and cardiology at Auckland District Health Board. He is a chartered accountant and holds a Bachelor of Business from Massey University. In his current role as CEO of Tihī Ora MAPO he works to improve health service delivery to all people living within the rohe (area). Tracy is passionate about healthcare and has a personal vision for Maori health, in which disparity is reduced, life expectancy is increased, and Maori have better access to health services, which are delivered in a sustainable way. This benefit is not only for Maori but for the population as a whole.

## **Joyce Wilkinson**

*Health and Safety Consultant/Emergency Planner  
Lakes DHB*

Joyce has worked in the areas of health and safety and emergency management for some time. During the mid-1980s she worked in private industry across Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty area. From 1990 until now Joyce has worked in roles at the Taranaki, Waikato and Lakes District Health Boards.

Joyce's current role in emergency management sees her liaising with emergency services and Territorial Local Authorities across the Midland region. She has been working with Bay of Plenty DHB developing the joint Lakes/ BOP Pandemic Plan.

# New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan



**The Exercise Programme will be an opportunity to practise the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan (NZIPAP), New Zealand's national plan for responding to an influenza pandemic.**

The latest version of the NZIPAP was approved by Cabinet in September 2006 and will stand as the current version for a minimum of a year.

The NZIPAP is primarily a central government planning document, but contains useful information for anyone involved in planning for or responding to an influenza pandemic. The NZIPAP is also intended to inform (but not prescribe) the structure of local plans for responding to a pandemic.

Since the last public release of this document (Version 14 in November 2005), a Version 15 was produced that went to all health sector agencies and government departments for consultation. Version 16 reflects the ongoing work being undertaken across the health sector and government in general, and also incorporates the feedback on Version 15. The plan itself – the phase-by-phase action plan – remains essentially the same, with some minor revisions to bring the plan into line with the latest thinking. The explanatory material and supplementary appendices have been substantially added to in order to give planners and the public access to the more detailed information that has become available.

Electronic copies are available on the Ministry of Health website <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/nz-influenza-pandemic-action-plan-2006>

## Upcoming Events

**9 October 2006**

Ministry of Health  
CBAC Workshop  
Wellington

**13 October 2006**

Midland Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive  
Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Presentation on Exercise  
Makgill

**19 October 2006**

Southern Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive  
Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Presentation on Exercise  
Makgill

**20 October 2006**

Central Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive  
Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Presentation on Exercise  
Makgill

**20 October 2006**

Northern Region  
Health Co-ordinating Executive  
Group (HCEG) Meeting  
- Presentation on Exercise  
Makgill

**9 November**

Exercise Makgill

## 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](mailto:birdflu@moh.govt.nz)



MANATŪ HAUORA