**National Drug Policy**

**Onamata - Past**

Learning from past consultations

* Psychoactive substances
  + Lessons to lern
  + Auckland Council developed a symposium around the Act
  + Big push for AOD treatment providers to put in submissions
* National Drug Policy – 2014 – CAYAD national submission
  + Working party 5-6 people
  + How do we have an impact – call out – come up with a process
* Past policy approaches to use/possession has been punishment based, intending to prevent harm
* Policy consultation – typically a policy would come out for consultation that was already fully formed – with little time for pubic consultation and change. Poor engagement.
* Auckland Council have used the Drug Foundation drug policy toolkit in a presentation with 12 stakeholders.
  + There was good debate
  + workshop was long, too much information
  + need something for young people
* 1999/2000 cannabis select committee inquiry

**Inamata – Present**

*What are we currently working on?*

* Highlighting impacts of criminalising drug use
* Reducing availability a goal for CAYAD; key impacts on drug use are
  + Availability (hours locations)
  + Affordability (price)
  + Marketing

🡪 considering how best to control through regulation [many options for what regulation might mean]

*Considering a way forward*

* Groups, dialogue, partnerships, health and safety,
* People’s values
* Consistent view as an organisation or a stance for the group?
* Ensure we identify risks and ways to mitigate these

Practical actions:

Should/how can the drug policy working group:

* Build CAYAD confidence to take the korero to the community
* Supporting the build up to the referendum
* What is the ‘CAYAD message’

*Organisations involved*

* Leverage
* Alignment of stakeholders
* Need a driver
* Big part of their action plan

**Anamata – Future**

*What are our next steps*

* A key role for CAYAD is to inform and empower communities so their voices have an impact on the key issues for their health, wellbeing.
* Values the group wish to emphasise include connection, compassion loving and kindness.
* Informing involves ensuring messages are evidence based, so we need to understand how far the evidence takes us at the moment.
* Consider the impacts on human rights; the impacts of different models; decriminalisation vs legalisation; risks of commercialisation; harm reduction opportunities; different products;
* Involve speakers from parliament

What can we commit to?

1. **Focus on cannabis and the cannabis referendum**
2. **Develop evidence informed messages suitable for CAYAD sites to use for raising informed debate and encouraging community input**
3. **Develop practical and achievable ways for CAYAD to support the discussion in their community and nationally.**

Actions discussed initially:

Quickly develop and agree evidence based messages for CAYAD around cannabis policy. Use a kind of 'reference group' to identify the main points of agreement e.g. in addition to our usual people in SHORE and Drug Foundation we could involve Peter Adams, Benedikt Fischer, Doug Sellman etc..

The messages will need to cover key points relating to:

* 1. The design of the referendum question
  2. (if a yes vote) Key considerations for developing a healthy framework for supply; what kind of underlying model, with what kind of restrictions?
  3. Encouraging informed voting in the referendum

We will also need to outline how we aim to use the messages to support informed community discussion and debate, to figure out what needs to be covered and simple approaches.

*We didn't get this far at National Hui, so following is all further draft ideas. However we broadly talked about ensuring we inform and empower the community, so they can develop and share their own views with the policy makers. Possible options -*

* Provide simple, accurate messages that all CAYAD sites can use and share with their networks to inform
* Review how the key points fit with the toolkit already available from the Drug Foundation and  (where needed) make changes, rather than reinventing the wheel (feedback that it produced good discussion but could be shorter)
* Focus on developing critical questions for the community to consider in general, or in focus-group type sessions and workshops; collate input for MPs to consider
* Sites can hold workshops or hui (some might prefer to invite in speakers or facilitators to lead the discussion. Others might feel confident to deliver these personally)
* Raise the key messages for discussion in media