

8 May 2026

John Luke

By email: fyi-request-34471-3494c13c@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2026081335

Tēnā koe John

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 11 April 2026 for information regarding appointments to the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD). Please find a response to each part of your request below.

<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2026-go1757>

May I ask how you called for public nomination and on what platform you have call for public nominations e.g. govt.jobs website.

The call for nomination for appointments to the EACD was for public service members, as stated under section 5AA of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975:

“... (3)(b) up to 3 people employed in the public service (as defined in section 10 of the Public Service Act 2020) who between them have appropriate expertise in—

- (i) public health:
- (ii) the appropriateness and safety of pharmaceuticals and their availability to the public.”

The advertisement was initially published on the Ministry of Health vacancy portal and was disseminated to agencies/organisations who may have members or staff for which the role may be of interest (in this case the Public Health Agency and to medication safety pharmacists through the NZ Hospital Pharmacy Association (NZHPA)).

Also, how many applications you have received for each of the role from the public and how many you have received from other nominating agencies such as TPK or Ministry of women etc for your role.

The Ministry received one application for the role of public health from a Public Health Agency employee, and one application for the role of appropriateness and safety of pharmaceuticals and their availability to the public from a hospital pharmacy employee. Both candidates were determined to hold the required expertise and experience.

A copy of your ad and pay rate as well.

As requested, a copy of the advertisement is enclosed and is itemised in Appendix 1 as Document 1.

Members of the EACD are paid a daily rate of \$325 per day (excluding GST), as determined by the Cabinet Fees Framework. This is set out on the Public Service Commission's website here: www.publicservice.govt.nz/guidance/guidance-for-statutory-crown-entities/remuneration-and-expenses-for-board-members.

How many you have shortlisted and how many you have interviewed.

Only two applications were received (one for each role), and these were determined to have the requisite expertise, therefore no shortlisting was undertaken.

Also, can I request to view the appointment letter if there is one sent to the Stephanie Murphy, Mark Ayson and Terry Brown. I am happy for you to remove all the personal information."

Terry Brown (border control) was re-appointed for a second 3-year term therefore, no advertisement was required on this occasion.

Appointment letters to the three candidates listed are attached and itemised in Appendix 1. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

Appendix 1: List of documents for release

#	Date	Document details	Decision on release
1	9 December 2025	Advertisement for Appointments to EACD	Released in full.
2	26 March 2026	Appointment letter to Stephanie Murphy	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.
3	26 March 2026	Appointment letter to Mark Ayson	
4	26 March 2026	Appointment letter to Terry Brown	

Document 1

Job Hub Ad

The Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) is seeking candidates who wish to be considered for appointment to the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD).

The EACD, established by the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act 2000, provides expert advice to the Minister of Health on drug classification issues.

The functions of the EACD are set out under section [5AA of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975](#).

Information is also available on the [Ministry's website](#).

In summary, the key functions are:

- (a) to carry out medical and scientific evaluations of controlled drugs, and any other narcotic or psychotropic substances, preparations, mixtures, or articles; and
- (b) to make recommendations to the Minister on —
 - i. whether and how controlled drugs or other substances, preparations or mixtures should be classified; and
 - ii. the amount, level, or quantity at and over which any substance, preparation or mixture is to be presumed to be for supply.

The Committee comprises members with expertise in pharmacology, toxicology, drug and alcohol treatment, psychology, community medicine; and up to 3 people employed in the public service with expertise in public health, the appropriateness and safety of pharmaceuticals and their availability to the public, as well as members from border control, Police, Ministry of Justice and a representative of consumers of drug treatment services.

This role (s) – Kōrero mō te tūranga

We are seeking candidates for the public health and/or the appropriateness and safety of pharmaceuticals. Previously these two roles have been served by one member, however it can also be served by two different members.

Members are appointed by the Director-General (delegated from the Minister of Health) for a term of three years which can be renewed for a further term.

The Committee generally meets once or twice a year, although more meetings may be held if required (online or face-to-face). The time required by members is variable but will not likely exceed a few days a year.

About you – Kōrero mōu

All applicants must be employed in the public sector and have expertise and experience in public health and/or appropriateness and safety of pharmaceuticals and their availability to the public.

How to apply – Me pēhea te tono

Applications should be sent to eacd@health.govt.nz by close of business on **11 January 2026** and include a covering letter, and a current CV. Also please specify which role(s) you are applying for.

If you would like to obtain further information or clarification, please contact us at eacd@health.govt.nz

26 March 2026

Stephanie Murphy
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Stephanie

Appointment to the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs

Thank you for your interest in the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD).

As per my delegated authority from the Minister of Health under schedule 6, clause 5(5) of the Public Service Act 2020, I am pleased to appoint you as a member of the EACD, pursuant to section 5AA of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

You have been appointed as a public service employee with expertise in the appropriateness and safety of pharmaceuticals and their availability to the public, for a term of three years, which will commence on the date of this letter.

Your appointment is conditional on your continued employment within the public service.

Please formally acknowledge your appointment by signing the attached memorandum and returning it to: eacd@health.govt.nz.

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the EACD. I am confident that you will make a valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely



Audrey Sonerson
Director-General of Health
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora

26 March 2026

Dr Mark Ayson
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Mark

Appointment to the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs

Thank you for your interest in the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD).

As per my delegated authority from the Minister of Health under schedule 6, clause 5(5) of the Public Service Act 2020, I am pleased to appoint you as a member of the EACD, pursuant to section 5AA of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975.

You have been appointed as a public service employee with expertise in public health for a term of three years, which will commence on the date of this letter.

Your appointment is conditional on your continued employment in the public service.

Please formally acknowledge your appointment by signing the attached memorandum and returning it to: eacd@health.govt.nz.

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the EACD. I am confident that you will make a valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely



Audrey Sonerson
Director-General of Health
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora



133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

26 March 2026

Terry Brown

s 9(2)(a)

Dear Terry

Reappointment to the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs

Thank you for being available for reappointment to the Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs (EACD).

As per my delegated authority from the Minister of Health under schedule 6, clause 5(5) of the Public Service Act 2020, I hereby appoint you as a member of the EACD, pursuant to section 5AA of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, to provide expertise in border control.

Your appointment is for a second term of three years which will commence on 31 March 2026. Your reappointment is conditional on your continued employment within the public service.

Please formally acknowledge your appointment by signing the attached memorandum and returning it to: eacd@health.govt.nz.

Thank you for your willingness to remain on the EACD, I am confident that you will continue to make a valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Audrey Sonerson'.

Audrey Sonerson
Director-General of Health
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora