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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF THE NATIONAL CERVICAL SCREENING PROGRAMME

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Educational Administration at Massey University

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Abstract

This thesis is a case study of the development of the National Cervical Screening Programme policy. The aim of the study was to identify and describe the political, social and ideological factors which may have influenced the National Cervical Screening Programme policy. policy-makers included community or consumer participants as well as professionals. This relatively unique feature of community involvement was also a focus of study. study involved a literature search and review as well as interviews with key informants. Cervical screening on a population basis was trialled as far back as the 1960s at the same time that Professor Green was questioning the efficacy of early treatment of cervical abnormalities. Green's controversial research resulted in Commission of Inquiry which recommended the establishment population based national cervical of screening programme.

The political, social and ideological context in which the National Cervical Screening programme policy was developed is described and interpreted. It is concluded that the National Cervical Screening Programme policy was adopted by the Government as a means to ameliorate the crisis of legitimation which was evident during the 1980s. It is further concluded that community or consumer participation in policy development is a highly complex issue requiring further study. Consumer representation is particularly problematic as consumer policy-makers require considerable skills, the acquisition of which may cause them to become less representative of the public whose voice they are intended to be.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank my family for supporting and assisting me and putting up with my preoccupation with this thesis.

Thanks also goes to John Codd and Norma Chick for their supervision and patience. I am grateful to Wayne Edwards for his constant support and encouragement.

Thanks goes to Peggy Koopman-Boyden for sharing some of her considerable expertise in social science. While Peggy had no direct academic input into my work, her encouragement in the initial stages helped to keep me motivated.

Thanks to Ian Miller for allowing me to undertake this case study and for offering his encouragement and to Judith Johnston for introducing me to Hill and Bramley.

Thanks to Kay Saville-Smith for her understanding and assistance.

Thanks also to Stuart and Sally, whose encouragement kept me going.

Finally I thank most sincerely all those who agreed to be interviewed and so made this thesis possible; your assistance and honesty is deeply valued.

CONTENT

Abstract.	ii			
Acknowledgementsiii				
Contents.	iv			
Introduct	ionviii			
Chapter 1	Policy Issues: a Review of the Literature1			
1.1	Introduction1			
1.2	Policy defined2			
1.3	Policy analysis: prescription and evaluation4			
1.4	Approaches to policy analysis6			
1.5	The development of social policies10			
1.6	Types of policies11			
1.7	Social policy and economic development14			
1.8	Health expenditure in New Zealand:			
	The neo-liberal solution15			
1.9	A critique of the neo-liberal approach17			
1.10	The development of the welfare state in			
	New Zealand18			
1.11	Bureaucracies and policy development21			
1.12	Consumers and participation in policy			
	development22			
1.13	The process of participation24			
1.14	The substantive consequences of participation24			
1.15	Health care in New Zealand29			
1.16	The development of the health sector in			
	New Zealand30			
1.17	Summary32			
Chapter 2	2 The Establishment of the NCSP:			
	A History of Events36			
2.2	Cervical Screening37			
2.3	The years before Cartwright38			
2.4	The Metro article41			

2.5	The Cartwright Report and the Government's
	response43
2.6	The Ministerial Review Committee46
2.7	The Expert Group48
2.8	Summary50
Chapter 3	Research Methods and Procedures53
3.1	Introduction53
3.2	Research aims and methods53
3.3	The Case Study54
3.4	Literature search55
3.5	Interviews56
3.6	Problems encountered59
3.7	Summary61
Chapter 4	The Situational Factors affecting the
	NCSP Policy62
4.1	Introduction62
4.2	Significant New Zealand events63
4.3	Dominant individuals66
4.4	Dominant groups and organisations69
4.5	The significant phases/stages in the policy-
	making process72
4.6	Summary74
Chapter 5	The Structural Factors affecting the
	NCSP policy76
5.1	Introduction
5.2	The role of the state77
5.3	The role of the state and the NCSP policy77
5.4	Prior policy commitments81
5.5	The fit between the NCSP policy and other
	policies81
5.6	The New Zealand economy and the NCSP83
5.7	Top-down or bottom-up policy-making process88
5.8	Will the NCSP policy be successfully
	implemented?89
5.9	Summary91
Chapter 6	The Cultural/Ideological Factors affecting
	the NCSP policy93
6.1	Introduction93

6.2	New Zealand's divergent cultural values:
	are they reflected in the NCSP policy?94
6.3	The prominent cultural values in the
	NCSP policy95
6.4	The NCSP policy and popular support96
6.5	Did the NCSP reflect the political
	ideology of the time97
6.6	The Treaty of Waitangi and the NCSP policy99
6.7	The social and moral implications
	of the policy102
6.8	The language of the market place105
6.9	Summary107
Chapter 7	The Environmental Factors affecting
	the NCSP policy109
7.1	Introduction
7.2	International events which influenced the
	NCSP policy109
7.3	The international social policies which
	influenced the NCSP policy110
7.4	The international agreements and obligations
	which influenced the NCSP policy110
7.5	The countries which influence New Zealand
	health policies112
7.6	The media and the NCSP policy112
7.7	Summary113
Chapter 8	The Personal Factors affecting the
	NCSP policy115
8.1	Introduction
8.2	The forms of expertise within the
	Expert Group115
8.3	The major aims of interviewees116
8.4	The overall problems encountered117
8.5	The overall advantages of the NCSP
	policy-making process120
8.6	The changes that interviewees would make if
	they had to develop the policy again122
8.7	Summary124

Chapter 9	Consumer	Participation in the NCSP
	policy-ma	king 126
9.1	Introduct	ion126
9.2	Community	participation: the political
	perspecti	ve126
9.3	Consumer	contribution to policy development:
	Important	or not?127
9.4	The amoun	t of consumer input into the
	NCSP poli	cy128
9.5	Consumer	representation130
9.6	How Consu	mer representation worked133
9.7	Consumer	participation and effects on
	decision-	making135
9.8	Summary	
Chapter 10	Conclusion	on141
Appendices	5	
Apper	ndix I	Dates of Expert Group Meetings151
Apper	ndix II	Expert Group's Policy Statement152
Apper	ndix III	Letters to Interviewees226
Apper	ndix IV	Interviewee schedule230
Apper	ndix V	List of media articles on
		cervical screening: May 1990
		to February 1992234
Ribliogram	ስ ት ሚ	262

INTRODUCTION

This thesis focuses on consumer participation in the development of a social policy, the National Cervical Screening Programme (NCSP), within the health sector. The thesis is a case study of the NCSP from its genesis in 1988 to the production of a comprehensive Policy Statement in August 1990. The NCSP health policy is significant for a number of reasons:

- It is the first national health programme for all New Zealand women;
- It focuses on prevention rather than treatment;
- It was established on the recommendation of a Royal Commission of Inquiry;
- It is a programme with a high media profile and
- It included significant consumer participation in the policy-making process.

The researcher is the National Co-ordinator of the NCSP and was appointed to this position in June 1990 to implement the NCSP policy. Such close involvement with the NCSP policy necessarily brings a personal perspective to this case study.

The research involved a literature search, including documents held within the Department of Health, and interviews conducted with key informants who were closely involved with the development of the NCSP policy.

As all interviewees would be potentially identifiable, confidentiality was a sensitive issue in this research. Interviewees were informed that their identities would be protected as far as possible and no data would be directly

attributable to specified individuals. For this reason, the members of the policy-making group, the Expert Group, were divided into two sub-groups: the "professionals" and the "consumers". The Department of Health officials and the politician who were interviewed were identified as a third group: the "bureaucrats-politician".

The NCSP policy is a social policy which comes under the umbrella of public policy. Public policy which includes social policy as a sub-set is defined as "the actions and state the overriding positions taken by the as collective entity in society." (Hill authoritative Social policy is commonly described as Bramley 1986:2). catering to the collective needs of society by means of policies dealing with pensions, redistribution. Thus, benefits, employment, housing, health services education are often included in the social policy category (Hill & Bramley 1986).

Policies are decisions taken by specific, powerful individuals about certain goals and the means to achieve unique these within a context (Jenkins 1978). Traditionally, policy-making individuals have been government officials or bureaucrats, professionals powerful interest groups (Hill & Bramley 1986). significant aspect of any unique context in the policymaking situation is the political one. The political climate of the early 1980s in New Zealand, the time leading up to the development of the NCSP policy, facilitated the non-traditional policy-makers inclusion of in development of social policies (Oliver 1989). Governments were espousing more community consultation and espousing of corporatism, particularly in the area industrial relations. Shirley, Easton, Briar and Chatterjee (1990) have described corporatism as

...essentially a pragmatic approach to the integrative problems of the market economy and it represented a formula for linking the organised economic interests of society with the structures and processes of

decision-making within the modern state. The owners of capital, as well as producers in their organised capacities (i.e. employers and workers' associations) were recognised as major partners in the national enterprise of production and distribution, with each party expected to assume responsibility for making the system work. This meant, in effect, that employers acknowledged full employment as a primary social and economic objective, while workers accepted the need for wage moderation and higher productivity as a prerequisite for economic growth and social well-being. (pg 18-19).

At the same time, a more educated and informed society was demanding an active role in policy-making (Richardson 1983). The climate, therefore, was conducive to inclusion of community or consumer participants in the development of the NCSP policy. Aspects of the process of in the development of the consumer participation policy are of particular interest in this case study.

The thesis is comprised of ten chapters. Chapter relation describes the relevant concepts in to the established literature. It introduces the reader to the notion of policy analysis, defines policy and describes some of the types of policy that theorists have identified. The approaches which have been utilised in the analysis of policy are briefly discussed with an introduction to the approach used in this present case study of policy development.

Social policies have to be viewed as integral to the welfare state and the economy of a nation. Because resources are finite, value judgements have to be made by those in power about the policies which will be funded and given priority. Policy priorities are the consequence of a variety of influencing factors and these are discussed together with the ideology which underpins the different perspectives.

New Zealand has a welfare state which many describe as originating with the enacting of the Social Security Act in

1938. A brief description is given of the growth of the Health Sector in New Zealand which began prior to the Social Security Act of 1938. The Health Sector is firmly based on the medical model which largely assumes that disease can be fully accounted for by deviations from the norm of measurable biological variables (Ahmed & Kolker 1979). Thus, morbidity and mortality statistics become the which successful medical intervention yardstick by If morbidity and mortality figures are high, for measured. a particular disease, it is deemed to be a significant medical problem. The aim, then, is to reduce the morbidity and mortality figures.

traditionally Policy-making has been the role bureaucrats and professionals. Consumers, however, have, over the last decade, been clamouring to be involved in policy development (Richardson 1983). The participation of consumers in policy development is still relatively unique and is advocated or opposed by different groups variety of reasons. These are discussed in the context of the current social situation in the Western Nations, with particular reference to New Zealand and the NCSP policy.

traces the establishment of the National Chapter Two Cervical Screening Programme. Cervical screening trials were conducted by the medical profession as early as the 1960s. While health professionals had attempted in generate political interest a national cervical screening programme in the mid 1980s, it was not until Cartwright recommended it in 1988 that establishment of the NCSP became a policy priority for the Judge Cartwright's recommendation was made as Government. a result of events surrounding controversial experimental research at National Women's Hospital in Auckland and was accepted by the Government in 1988. The subsequent development of the NCSP policy by the Department of Health fraught with problems which resulted in political intervention. An historical record of the events from the Cartwright Inquiry to the production of a policy document are presented.

Chapter Three discusses the research methodology used. The study method including a literature search and interviews with key informants was used. The framework used to guide the research was an adaptation of Leichter's Leichter developed a framework for the (1979) framework. of policies which combined situational. evaluation structural, cultural and environmental factors. present research, the addition to Leichter's framework of "more personal factors" enabled the personal perspectives in the policy-making process to of key informants The research methods employed are discussed investigated. in relation to the problems encountered and the solutions utilised.

In Chapter Four the research data is discussed in relation literature on situational factors. to the Situational factors are impermanent, transient events which impact on policy development. Situational factors include social policies, significant individuals and organisations which influence the development of policy. situational factors unique which influenced development of the NCSP policy are described.

Five details the structural Chapter factors which influenced the development of the NCSP policy. Structural factors are more permanent, or at least relatively slow changing, aspects of society and the political system. role of the state is a structural factor which is described in relation to the development of the NCSP policy. Zealand's economic base and the influence of economic development on the of the NCSP policy are discussed in relation to the political system.

The cultural and ideological factors which affected the development of the NCSP policy are described in Chapter

Six. The cultural factors include the values which are held by society as a whole. Ideology refers to the ideas which reflect the beliefs and interests of society and the political system.

Chapter Seven relates the significant environmental factors which influenced the development of the NCSP policy. Environmental factors are those structures and values which are located outside a political system yet still impact on the policy-making process. The international policies and events which affected the development of the NCSP policy are described. The role of the media is an environmental factor which influenced the development of the NCSP policy.

The more personal factors of key informants or interviewees who were closely involved with the development of the NCSP policy are described in Chapter Eight. Policy-makers had their personal aims and provided their own opinions on many aspects of the NCSP policy. The personal insights and opinions of the interviewees provided illumination of the process of the NCSP policy development. The personal perspectives of consumer participants discussed policy-making are in relation to of professionals and bureaucrats-politician.

issues associated with participation The consumer in policy-making are discussed in Chapter Nine. The consumer representatives described how they performed their role of representation. The difficulties of obtaining representation consumer and the policy-making participants were required by consumer identified significant issues. There are many reasons given for including consumers in the development of social policies. These are discussed in relation to the development of the NCSP policy.

The conclusions to be drawn from this case study in the development of the NCSP policy which included significant

consumer participation are described in Chapter Ten. Areas for further research in policy development and consumer participation are suggested.