Symposium on Priorities in Environmental Health

Implications for policy

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- Workplace Health and Safety Strategy for New Zealand to 2015

  - Airborne Substances Program

- HSE / HSNO interface

- Elimination and Substitution

- Management of Workplace Processes

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Workplace Health and Safety Strategy

Strategy vision:

"Healthy people in safe and productive workplaces"

Three outcomes

- Government leadership

- Preventative workplace cultures

- Industry and community leadership

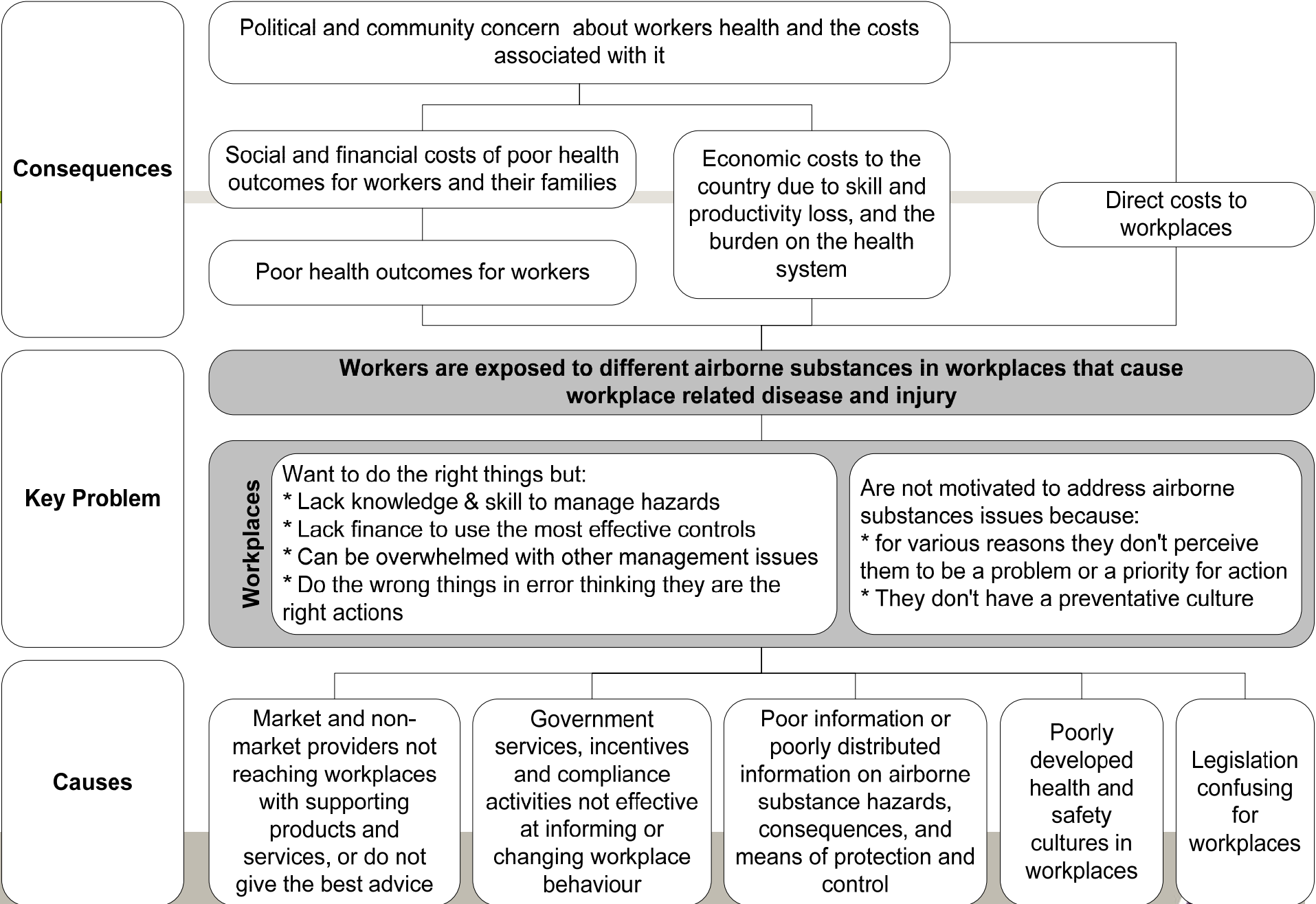**Airborne Substances** a National priority

Airborne Substances Program

Purpose:

to influence workplace culture and practice so workers exposure to airborne substances is reduced or eliminated.

Consequences	Political and community concern about workers health and the costs associated with it
	Social and financial costs of poor health outcomes for workers and their families
	Economic costs to the country due to skill and productivity loss, and the burden on the health system
	Direct costs to workplaces
	Poor health outcomes for workers

Workers are exposed to different airborne substances in workplaces that cause workplace related disease and injury

Key Problem

Workplaces

Want to do the right things but:
* Lack knowledge & skill to manage hazards
* Lack finance to use the most effective controls
* Can be overwhelmed with other management issues
* Do the wrong things in error thinking they are the right actions

Are not motivated to address airborne substances issues because:
* for various reasons they don't perceive them to be a problem or a priority for action
* They don't have a preventative culture

Causes

| Market and non-market providers not reaching workplaces with supporting products and services, or do not give the best advice | Government services, incentives and compliance activities not effective at informing or changing workplace behaviour | Poor information or poorly distributed information on airborne substance hazards, consequences, and means of protection and control | Poorly developed health and safety cultures in workplaces | Legislation confusing for workplaces |

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Four activity streams:

- Information (including research)

- Legislation

- Improving workplace performance

- Improving services to workplaces

HSE / HSNO / ACC Interface Project

- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 (HSE)

- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO)

- Regulatory review: - HSE / HSNO / ACC interface

  - "All practicable steps"

  - "As low as reasonably achievable / practical" ALARA / ALARP

- Potential enforcement difficulty has not come up at interface meetings

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Elimination and Substitution

- Asbestos

- Man Made Mineral Fibre (MMMF)

- PCP anti sap stain

- Light Organic Solvent Preservative (LOSP)

- Methyl Bromide fumigation

Management of Workplace processes

- "Historic" v current workplace issues

- Section 30 HSE Act:- "ongoing role of the inspector"

- Monitoring duties to ensure the act has been complied with

- Exposure to workers and others

- What catalyst for change?

  - Research
  - Lobbying
  - Cases
  - Community engagement / mediation / reconciliation?

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Summary: Implications for Policy

- Workplace Health and Safety Strategy

    - Airborne Substances Strategy

- HSE / HSNO / ACC Interface

    - Regulatory Review

- Ongoing review of workplace processes

- "Community" engagement

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