

Community Water Fluoridation

Where do the New Plymouth Council candidates stand?

In Favour



Reuben Doyle



Peter Barker



Roy Weaver



Neil Holdom



Harry Duynhoven

Opposed



Bev Gibson



Teresa Goodin



Rusty Kane



Phil Quinney



Chris Manukonga



Morris West



Chris Wilkes



Mary Barnard

Why fluoridation?

Dental decay is the single most common chronic (and irreversible) disease among New Zealanders of all ages and oral health disparities exist in New Zealand. This means pain, infection, bad breath and foul tastes, impaired chewing ability, tooth loss, compromised appearance, decreased quality of life, personal financial costs as well as indirect costs to society.

Fluoride is not a silver bullet but is an important part of reducing caries. Water fluoridation at levels used in New Zealand reduces the prevalence and severity of tooth decay.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring trace element found in the air, soil, water, seawater, plants and many foods. In NZ, it occurs naturally in all water supplies, but at a level that is too

low to protect against tooth decay. Adjusting the water fluoride level to 0.7-1.0 parts per million provides protection from tooth decay.

Community Water fluoridation (CWF) levels is:

- **Safe** –with no adverse health effects. It was used for 40 years in New Plymouth.
- **Natural** – once added to water it's exactly the same as naturally occurring fluoride. The sea contains nearly twice as much fluoride than CWF.
- **Effective** – up to 40% less tooth decay!
- **Cost-effective** – benefits of reduced dental treatments far outweigh the costs. Dental treatment is 30x more expensive than CWF.
- **Fair** – It protects the vulnerable, reducing inequalities and helps the whole community.

The Royal Society NZ Fluoridation Review suggested removing CWF would have direct and indirect costs to society. *“Tooth decay is responsible for significant health loss (lost years of healthy life) in New Zealand. The ‘burden’ of the disease – its ‘cost’ in terms of lost years of healthy life – is equivalent to **3/4 that of prostate cancer, and 2/5 that of breast cancer in New Zealand. Tooth decay thus has substantial direct and indirect costs to society.**”*

For more info visit:

The National Fluoridation Information Service: <http://nfis.org.nz>

The Royal Review on fluoridation: <http://goo.gl/6x2Ta4>

Fluoride facts: <http://fluoridefacts.govt.nz>

Ministry of Health: <http://goo.gl/iwik11>

Making Sense of Fluoride (MSoF) is an incorporated society, whose main aim is to counter much of the misinformation on the internet and print media related to community water fluoridation. We are a combination of students, academics and medical professionals advocating that this significant public health initiative be maintained in Australasia given the longstanding scientific consensus on its safety and efficacy.

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