



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, KNZM FRSNZ FMedSci FRS
Chief Science Advisor

19 February 2014

Dr Chai Chuah
Acting Director-General of Health and Chief Executive
Ministry of Health

Dr Pat Tuohy
Chief Advisor
Ministry of Health

Dear Chai and Pat

Re: Fluoride

As discussed at our meeting on 18th February, Auckland City has requested me to prepare a report on the scientific perspectives on the addition of fluoride to water supplies. This arises from increasing disquiet within their council being produced through activities of anti-fluoride campaigners. They have made a similar request of the Royal Society of New Zealand and of your Office.

After discussing this request with the Prime Minister, he has agreed this is something my Office should agree to do. I have also advised Mr Ryall. I have proposed to Sir David Skegg, President of the Royal Society of NZ that we should jointly undertake a definitive analysis accessible to a lay audience but done in sufficient depth to address the many issues, real or otherwise, that have led to some level of disquiet.

Sir David has agreed on a process – the report will be written out of my Office with an expert advisor panel appointed by the Royal Society of New Zealand, to produce a report that he and I will jointly sign off. I note your suggestion of community engagement from the outset via a distinguished and respected New Zealander being part of the process and my Office is currently considering whom might be approached. We would engage Dr Tuohy at the outset to ensure that the scope of the project covered all the issues he was aware of and to ensure liaison with the expertise within your Ministry.

Based on past experience of similar exercises, we think this work will take 5 months and I have a contract staffer, who is ideally

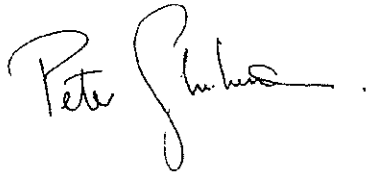
Page 1 of 2

placed and experienced to undertake the work and will lead the project. I note also the offer of assistance from Dr Tuohy and the Ministry which indeed would be most helpful.

I estimate the total cost of the project to be in the order of \$50,000 and I will be approaching the Auckland Council for assistance. My office does not have funds for this kind of additional activity and I am grateful that you agreed to provide some fiscal support for this project.

Can you confirm that you are willing to fund \$25,000 (GST exclusive) for the project? This would be by way of an invoice from my Office (which is operated by the University of Auckland on my behalf). I would be grateful for your confirmation so I can initiate the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Gluckman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sir Peter Gluckman KNZM FMedSci FRSNZ FRS