



Office of Hon Peter Dunne

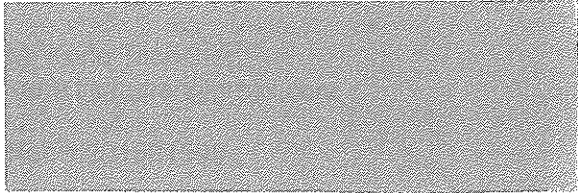
MP for Ohariu

Minister of Internal Affairs

Associate Minister of Health

Associate Minister of Conservation

03 JUN 2015



Dear 

Response to your request for official information

I am responding to your request of 6 May 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), in relation to community water fluoridation and the recent recommendation from the U.S. Public Health Service, asking whether I "...will be directing the Ministry of Health to reduce its current target range of 0.7ppm–1ppm to 0.7ppm?".

I have no plans to direct the Ministry of Health to reduce its current drinking-water fluoridation recommended range of 0.7ppm-1ppm to 0.7ppm. The Ministry advises that it has considered the recommendation and concluded that the recommendation has not shifted the balance of health benefit versus health risk of fluoridating community drinking-water supplies in the current range of 0.7–1ppm.

I appreciate that the fluoridation of drinking-water can be a controversial issue for some people. However, the Ministry's advice is that fluoride, when adjusted to optimal concentrations in fluoridated drinking-water, is safe for all groups in the population. As you know, this advice was recently affirmed by the August 2014 report '*Health effects of water fluoridation: A review of the scientific evidence*' published on behalf of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor (Skegg/Gluckman Report). The levels of fluoride used in community water fluoridation in New Zealand are carefully monitored and within the guidelines of the World Health Organization.

Yours sincerely

Hon Peter Dunne
Associate Minister of Health