

My wife and I are strongly opposed to the entire concept of fluoridation of public water supplies and we are therefore opposed to District Health Boards being accorded the powers proposed by this legislation, which, in our view, can only have the effect of further entrenching what we consider to be an unhealthy and completely unnecessary practice.

Our opposition is based on our own personal experiences, along with conclusions reached following careful consideration of the vast amount of literature available on the subject. Our research was firstly prompted by my wife experiencing health issues arising from the consumption of fluoridated water.

We are also totally opposed to any form of compulsory medication and we consider that for a judge to rule that the introduction of fluoride into public water supplies for the purpose of benefiting dental health is NOT a form of compulsory medication, is pure sophistry and worthy of a dictatorship.

Firstly, we do not accept that fluoridated water has any positive effects on dental health for the following reasons:

In 1984 we moved to reside in Napier with our two sons, aged three and six. We were Napier residents for nine years and during that period both of our sons enjoyed perfect dental health, nil caries, notwithstanding the fact that Napier's public water supply was not (and still isn't) fluoridated. Our sons are now thirty-eight and thirty-five and still have a nil caries count. Our children's healthy teeth are down to a good diet, good dental hygiene and a low intake of carbonated, sugary drinks. Fluoride has nothing to do with good dental health!

Secondly, Fluoride, in any form, is a known neuro-toxin and a health hazard on a number of levels:

In 2004 my wife and I moved from Wellington to Havelock North, where Hydrofluorosilicic Acid (toxic industrial waste) is added to the water by the Hastings District Council. Shortly before the move, my wife had been having thyroid problems and, at the time of the move, her condition was in the process of being stabilised with medication. This problem persisted for a few years and, as all efforts to satisfactorily stabilise her condition with medication during this period were less than successful, we followed the advice of a medical professional, who suggested that we should purchase a water filter with the ability to extract fluoride. He explained that the presence of fluoride in the water can be seriously detrimental to the health of any person with a thyroid condition.

I was in the process of recovering from a near fatal heart attack followed by an emergency quintuple bypass operation at the time the use of a water filter was suggested to my wife and the medical professional concerned also expressed the view that fluoride free water would possibly assist my, until then, painfully slow recovery.

Happily, my wife's thyroid condition was stabilised after consuming filtered, fluoride free water for a few weeks and the pace of my recovery picked up sufficiently to enable me to return to my employment. I believe that the availability of filtered water assisted my convalescence.

At the time it was suggested that we should purchase an appropriate water filter, we had never given the question of fluoridation any real consideration. We were neither particularly for nor against it. However, the events mentioned above changed all this and we carried out a great deal of research into fluoridation, with the result that we are now both strongly opposed to the practice, which we would dearly like to see discontinued with immediate effect.

There are many papers, some very recent, containing convincing arguments against fluoridation, but the one that first turned us against the practice was the 1997 paper written by Dr John Colquhoun, the former Auckland Principal Dental Officer. His comparison of dental decay rates between Napier and Hastings is surely the “elephant in the room” when arguments are put forward by pro fluoridation people regarding the ‘benefits’ of fluoridation.

Dr Colquhoun’s paper is well worth consideration. A link follows:

<http://fluoridation.com/colquhoun.htm>

We are of the view that this legislation should not proceed and we would be grateful if our submission on this very important issue could receive your attention.

Sincerely

Les Ryan