

# Thank you for your submission (Reference number\*: W5UV8RN)

Submission to Select Committee on Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill 208-1

I request presentation time to appear before the committee.

## Fluoridation has never worked: decades of statistical proof from the New Zealand Ministry of Health

This submission is in opposition to this Amendment:

- 1) The Amendment applies to an ineffective policy. Extending something that is not now and never has been effective is illogical. "*Insanity*: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." - Albert Einstein
- 2) This Amendment will extend exposure of a harmful neurotoxin to 50% more New Zealanders
- 3) It will be expensive harm. Instead, money should be saved by starting a NZ version of the CHILDSMILE programme, which is proven successful, giving non-fluoridated Scottish children better teeth than NZ children
- 4) DHBs will not be required to consult with anyone or examine ingested fluoride toxicity
- 5) This Bill will effectively force fluoridation on everyone
- 6) There are no provisions in this Bill for fluoride testing for anyone, including tens of thousands of fluoride-sensitive New Zealanders including people with Diabetes, Thyroid Disease, Kidney Disease and Bottle-Fed Babies

I am a neuro-muscular and cranio-sacral therapist and discovered the Fluoride Free NZ group when I got fluoride poisoning several years ago. I am now the Fluoride Free Wellington Coordinator and an administrator for the NZ Health Professionals Opposing Fluoridation.

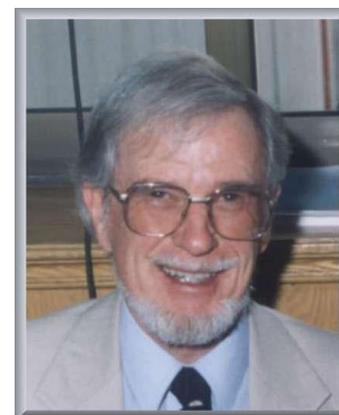
When I moved to a house that had a bathtub, I started taking baths for muscular therapy. Shortly thereafter, I started to have severe pain and dysfunction in the joints of my thumbs and wrists. I saw a physiotherapy specialist who made braces for my hands and instructed me on rehab exercises, which I followed carefully, as my career was at stake. I could no longer hang laundry or lift a backpack or kitchen pots and pans without pain and re-straining the joints. Neither she nor her colleagues could fathom what was causing the problem. A friend discovered some information about fluoride poisoning through skin absorption and passed it on to me. At the time, I knew nothing about fluoride or fluoridation. My symptoms were a fit for fluoride poisoning through skin, so I immediately stopped taking baths and switched to short showers and always wore gloves when washing dishes. In less than three weeks, my pain and dysfunction were gone. I made no other changes to anything in my life. The pain has never returned, and it's now been more than five years.

**Two decades after fluoridation started in New Zealand, Non-fluoridated Christchurch had BETTER TEETH than most fluoridated areas of NZ.**

**The same is still true now, thirty years later.**

## Statistics from Dr. John Colquhoun, Principle Dental Officer, Auckland, Former Head of the NZ Fluoridation Promotion Group

The late Dr. John Colquhoun was the Principal Dental Officer of Auckland and the very enthusiastic head of the Fluoridation Promotion Group when the NZ Department of Health sent him on a world study tour of fluoridating countries in 1980. Upon his return, he changed his mind about fluoridation and published:



### *Why I Changed My Mind About Fluoridation*

Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, 41, 1, Autumn 1997  
<http://www.fluoridation.com/colquhoun.htm>

Blue is for Non-fluoridated Christchurch

Black is for fluoridated other NZ cities

Blue shows non-fluoridated Christchurch usually has better teeth

Red shows the two instances where fluoridated had better

Green numbers are when the data points were the same for non-fluoridated & fluoridated

| Statistics from Dr. John Colquhoun,<br>Principle Dental Officer, Auckland,<br>Former Head of the NZ Fluoridation<br>Promotion Group<br>Table for years 1984 & 1987 | Population<br>Size of<br>Year 8<br>Children | Percentage of<br>Children with<br>NO decay<br>(Caries-free) | Average<br>Number of<br>Fillings<br>(DMFT) | Year<br>fluoridation<br>began |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Greater Auckland/ <a href="#">Christchurch 1984</a>  | 14,323/ <a href="#">4,658</a>               | 20.1/ <a href="#">20.9</a>                                  | <a href="#">3.1</a> / <a href="#">3.2</a>  | 1966 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Greater Auckland/ <a href="#">Christchurch 1987</a>  | 12,036/ <a href="#">5,089</a>               | 28.1/ <a href="#">30.5</a>                                  | 2.6/ <a href="#">2.4</a>                   | 1966 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Hamilton / <a href="#">Christchurch 1984</a>   | 2,865/ <a href="#">4,658</a>                | 15.3 / <a href="#">20.9</a>                                 | 3.5/ <a href="#">3.2</a>                   | 1966 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Hamilton / <a href="#">Christchurch 1987</a>   | 2,604/ <a href="#">5,089</a>                | 22.0/ <a href="#">30.5</a>                                  | 2.9/ <a href="#">2.4</a>                   | 1966 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Palmerston Nth / <a href="#">Christchurch 1984</a>   | 1,401 / <a href="#">4,658</a>               | 19.7/ <a href="#">20.9</a>                                  | <a href="#">3.2</a> / <a href="#">3.2</a>  | 1962 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Palmerston Nth / <a href="#">Christchurch 1987</a>   | 1,155/ <a href="#">5,089</a>                | 20.3/ <a href="#">30.5</a>                                  | 3.2 / <a href="#">2.4</a>                  | 1962 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Wellington / <a href="#">Christchurch 1984</a>   | 6,216/ <a href="#">4,658</a>                | <a href="#">20.8</a> / <a href="#">20.9</a>                 | 3.0 / <a href="#">3.2</a>                  | 1965 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Wellington / <a href="#">Christchurch 1987</a>   | 5,282 / <a href="#">5,089</a>               | 27.2/ <a href="#">30.5</a>                                  | 2.5/ <a href="#">2.4</a>                   | 1965 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Dunedin / <a href="#">Christchurch 1984</a>  | 1,385/ <a href="#">4,658</a>                | 17.7/ <a href="#">20.9</a>                                  | 2.9 / <a href="#">3.2</a>                  | 1967 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |
| Dunedin / <a href="#">Christchurch 1987</a>  | 1,232 / <a href="#">5,089</a>               | 25.2/ <a href="#">30.5</a>                                  | 2.7/ <a href="#">2.4</a>                   | 1967 / <a href="#">not Fd</a> |

Fluoridation has been rejected and banned in most places in Europe over the past few decades, so it is sad that New Zealand is considering an out-dated anti-scientific backward step towards extending fluoridation. Only 4% of the world is still fluoridated. More and more cities end fluoridation every year.

At present, 97% of the western European population drinks non-fluoridated water. This includes: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and approximately 90% of both the United Kingdom and Spain. Although some of these countries fluoridate their salt, the majority do not. (The only western European countries that allow salt fluoridation are Austria, France, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland.)

# 14 Nobel Prize winners who object to fluoridation

Dr. Arvid Carlsson, **Nobel Prize in Medicine**, Oct 2010 for his work on the brain. He also played a very prominent role in barring fluoridation in Sweden.

Dr. Giulio Natta, **Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, 1963  
Chem. Eng., Director, Industrial Chemistry Research Center, Polytechnic Institute of Milan, Italy.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, **Nobel Prize in Medicine**, 1958  
WHO's Advisory Health Research Council, Received U.S. National Medal of Science, 1989.  
Former Chairman of the Cancer Panel of the National Academy of Science.

Sir Cyril Norman Hinshelwood, O.M., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., **Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, 1956  
University of Oxford.

Nikolai Nikolaevitch Semenov, **Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, 1956  
D.Sc., Director, Institute of Chemical Physics, Moscow, professor, Leningrad Polytechnic Institute and of Moscow State University, member USSR Academy of Science, Chemical Society of England, and Royal Society of England.

Hugo Theorell, M.D., **Nobel Prize in Medicine**, 1955  
Director, Bio-chemistry Department, Nobel Medical Institute, Swedish Medical Association. Stated hazards of fluoridation in a report to the Swedish Royal Medical Board/Walter Rudolf Hess, Dr. Med.

Dr. Phil. D. Sc., **Nobel Prize in Medicine** 1947  
Professor of physiology and former Director of Physiological Institute, University of Zurich

Sir Robert Robinson, O.M., D.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.S., M.I.C.E., **Nobel Prize in Chemistry**, 1947  
Director, Shell Chemical Company, Professor of Chemistry, Oxford University.

James B. Sumner, **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** 1946.  
Dir. Director of Enzyme Chemistry, Dept. of Biochemistry and Nutrition, Cornell University

Professor Arturi J. Virtanen, **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** 1945  
Director, Biochemical Institute, Helsinki, president, Finnish State Academy of Sciences and Art.

Adolf F. J. Butenandt, D. Phil., **Nobel Prize winner Chemistry** 1939  
Dir., Max Planck Inst. of Biochemistry, professor of physiological chemistry, Munich University.

Cornelle Jean Francois Heymans, M.D., **Nobel Prize winner Medicine** 1938.  
Professor of pharmacology, pharmacodynamics and toxicology and Director Heymans Institute of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

William P. Murphy, M.D., D.Sc., **Nobel Prize in Medicine**, 1934.  
Lecturer on medicine, emeritus, Harvard Medical School, consultant in hematology, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston.

Hans K. A. S. von Euler-Chelpin, **Nobel Prize winner Chemistry** 1929  
Stockholm University, President, Chemical Society, Dir. Inst. for Research in Organic Chemistry.

France “Fluoride chemicals are not included in the list [of ‘chemicals for drinking water treatment’]. This is due to ethical as well as medical considerations.”

**SOURCE:** Louis Sanchez, Directeur de la Protection de l’Environnement,

Norway “In Norway we had a rather intense discussion on this subject some 20 years ago, and the conclusion was that drinking water should not be fluoridated.”

**SOURCE:** Truls Krogh & Toril Hofshagen, Folkehelsa Statens institutt for folkeheise (National Institute of Public Health) Oslo, Norway

Sweden: “Drinking water fluoridation is not allowed in Sweden... New scientific documentation or changes in dental health situation that could alter the conclusions of the Commission have not been shown.”

**SOURCE:** Gunnar Guzikowski, Chief Government Inspector, Livsmedels Verket — National Food Administration Drinking Water Division, Sweden

Czech Republic: “Since 1993, drinking water has not been treated with fluoride in public water supplies throughout the Czech Republic. Although fluoridation of drinking water has not actually been proscribed it is not under consideration because this form of supplementation is considered:

- Uneconomical (only 0.54% of water suitable for drinking is used as such; the remainder is employed for hygiene etc. Furthermore, an increasing amount of consumers (particularly children) are using bottled water for drinking (underground water usually with fluor)

- unecological (environmental load by a foreign substance)
- unethical (“forced medication”)
- toxicologically and physiologically debateable (fluoridation represents an untargeted form of supplementation which disregards actual individual intake and requirements and may lead to excessive health-threatening intake in certain population groups; [and] complexation of fluor in water into non biological active forms of fluor.”

**SOURCE:** Dr. B. Havlik, Ministerstvo Zdravotnictvi Ceske Republiky

## **AUSTRIA:**

“Toxic fluorides have never been added to the public water supplies in Austria.” - M. Eisenhut, Head of Water Department

## **BELGIUM:**

“This water treatment has never been of use in Belgium and will never be (we hope so) into the future. The main reason for that is the fundamental position of the drinking water sector that it is not its task to deliver medicinal treatment to people. This is the sole responsibility of health services.” - Chr. Legros, Directeur, Belgaqua, Brussels, Belgium

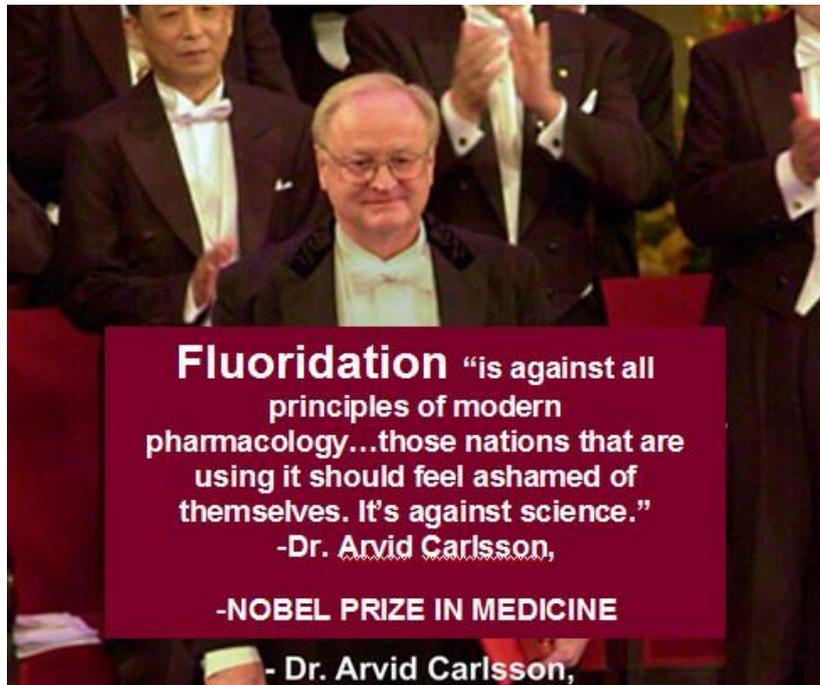
## **DENMARK:**

### *Denmark*

The Ministry of the Environment states that “fluoridation is not allowed in Denmark” [9]. On 3 January, 1977, the National Agency of Environmental Protection recommended to the Minister for the Environment “not to permit fluoridation of drinking water in Denmark. The recommendation of the Agency is among other things based upon the fact that a number of questions on human health and environment are not and hardly can be clarified” [10].

Following upon receipt of this recommendation, the Minister for the Environment issued on 5 January, 1977, a statement concluding that “the power warranted by section 48 of the Water Supply Act should not be applied to allow fluoridation of drinking water”. Some of the reasons included in the statement as the basis for this conclusion are:

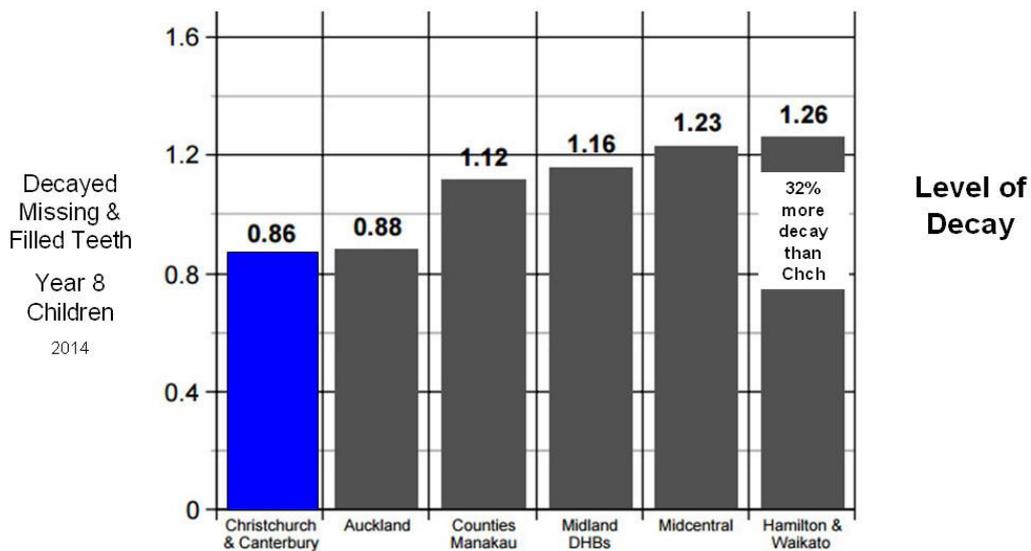
1. “It must be ensured that industrial enterprises within a water supply district do not produce goods that might be affected by an increased content of fluoride in the water supply”.
2. “The greater part of the fluoride is not consumed . . . but is carried into the soil through irrigation or into water-courses, lakes, and the sea as wastewater. Knowledge about the consequences of an increased discharge of fluoride into marine and fresh waters is very limited”. There is “a possibility that fluoride may be accumulated via food chains”.



The most current available wide database statistics pertaining to fluoridation in New Zealand are for 2014. They show that even after 70 years in NZ, fluoridation is still a failure.

New Zealand MoH school dental statistics: <http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics>

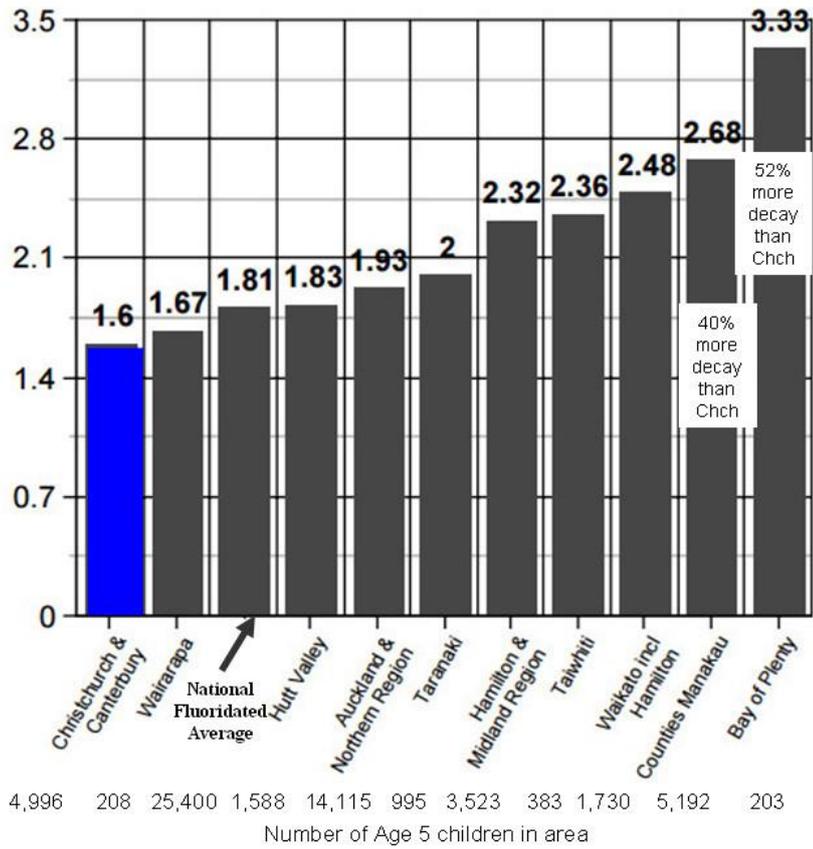
## NON FLUORIDATED CHRISTCHURCH Has LESS Tooth Decay



2014 is the most recent School Dental data available from the New Zealand Ministry of Health as of January 2017



### Christchurch Has Less Tooth Decay



NZ Ministry of Health School Dental Data 2010

Year after the "Our Oral Health" survey



This table was published in "Community Health Studies" 1987.

Table

Caries-free percentages and mean DMFT (number of decayed, missing and filled permanent teeth) in 1984 and 1987 for all Form II (12- and 13-year-old) children from all school dental clinics in non-fluoridated Christchurch and the other, fluoridated, main population areas of New Zealand.

| Centre           | 1984              |               |           | 1987              |               |           |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
|                  | (no. of children) | caries-free % | mean DMFT | (no. of children) | caries-free % | mean DMFT |
| Non-fluoridated: |                   |               |           |                   |               |           |
| Christchurch     | (4658)            | 20.9%         | 3.2       | (5089)            | 30.5%         | 2.4       |
| Fluoridated:     |                   |               |           |                   |               |           |
| Greater Auckland | (14323)           | 20.1%         | 3.1       | (12036)           | 28.1%         | 2.6       |
| Hamilton         | (2865)            | 15.3%         | 3.5       | (2604)            | 22.0%         | 2.9       |
| Palmerston North | (1401)            | 19.7%         | 3.2       | (1155)            | 20.3%         | 3.2       |
| Wellington       | (6216)            | 20.8%         | 3.0       | (5282)            | 27.2%         | 2.5       |
| Dunedin          | (1385)            | 17.7%         | 2.9       | (1232)            | 25.2%         | 2.7       |

Address all communications to  
The Principal Dental Officer.  
Telegraphic address:  
Health, Auckland.



In your reply quote reference  
301/3/2

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DISTRICT OFFICE

P.O. Box 5442  
Telex N.Z. 2573

Bledisloe State Building, Auckland

Telephone 792-900

6 December 1983

Mrs Imelda Hitchcock  
18 Rose Street  
TIMARU

Dear Mrs Hitchcock

In reply to your inquiry about the "permanent tooth filling rates per child" quoted in the Inner City News concerning Auckland's fluoridated and unfluoridated areas in 1981:- Yes, these were based on official figures, collected from all Health Districts in New Zealand from 1978 to 1981. In Auckland Health District we have also collected this information for 1982, and the difference was similar, as it was for all but one of the five years we have collected the information.

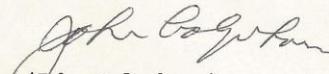
However, the same situation may not exist in other Health Districts. I do know that the 1980 figure for the unfluoridated Christchurch area was 0.72, lower than any of the fluoridated Auckland districts (Takapuna 0.97, Auckland 0.74, South Auckland 0.83).

The percentage of Form 2 children caries-free, in 1981, was higher in unfluoridated areas for 8 Health Districts, lower for 5 Health Districts, and equal in another, but none of these differences appear to be "statistically significant."

You should be able to obtain further information from your local District Health Office, and from the Head Office of the Department of Health in Wellington.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

  
(John Colquhoun)  
Principal Dental Officer