

## **Submission Phillipa Woods**

### **Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill**

In 2009 there was a heated debate concerning the mandatory fortification of bread with folic acid to help prevent certain birth defects. A law was enacted that required the compulsory fortification of bread by 13<sup>th</sup> September of that year.

However the Minister of Food Safety, Kate Wilkinson, deferred the decision with the focus now on introducing a targeted voluntary programme. Ms Wilkinson called for science-based evidence on the benefits of adding folic acid to bread and she had concerns about potential links to cancers.

Now these are familiar words in the water fluoridation debate.

How can it be that the Government are opposed to the mass medication of the population with folic acid, an essential vitamin, and yet are now proposing mass medication by the addition of highly toxic industrial waste fluoride to our drinking water?

When the mandatory fortification of bread was being debated, the Minister was advised that 87% of New Zealanders want to be able to choose whether or not the bread they buy contains folic acid.

The Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill proposes de-facto mandatory water fluoridation via District Health Boards.

Now that the Government intends to make water fluoridation mandatory, I suspect the New Zealand population will soundly reject the proposal.