

## **Presentation to Waitaki District Council by Sheryl Black on behalf of Fluoride Free Waitaki - 26 March 2024**

Thank you for this opportunity to present our petition, to 'Keep Fluoride out of Waitaki's Water'.

Including extras that missed the cut-off we have almost 600 signatures, and these are just people we reached with our limited time. However, the strong anti-fluoride feeling remains, just as it did in our 2007 local referendum which had 69% voting against water fluoridation.

As you know, the High Court found that Ashley Bloomfield's directive to fluoridate was unlawful because he failed to consider the Bill of Rights Act - the right to refuse medical treatment and the High Court has required a reconsideration of the directives.

However, as the Mayor of Nelson wrote to the Minister of Health, this leaves Councils in a legal quandary because the directive still technically stands, but has been found to be unlawful. So the Mayor sought a delay until 31 December for the legal position to be made clearer. This request was granted. The Mayor said that his Council is nervous of being caught between Govt telling them to fluoridate and threatening fines, and the strong opponents of fluoridation who may make a legal challenge.

Waitaki District Council is in precisely the same position.

If you start fluoridating, you will be implementing an unlawful directive.

There are big legal holes in what's being done and you will be open to legal ramifications if you proceed without complying with your broader obligations to us. You would also be breaching several other laws in order to comply with an unlawful directive.

Such as:

The Health Act. Adding a known neurotoxin to the water supply breaches this law.

The Code of Health & Disability Services Consumer Rights - Using the public water supply to deliver medicine breaches our right to informed consent and our right to refuse the service.

The Local Government Act, requires you to consult our community on matters of importance - this has not been done.

...and of course The Bill of Rights Act. You must clearly and substantively justify, why you should violate our fundamental right not to be forced to undergo a medical treatment.

Yes ! This is a lot of legal pressure!

Luckily you have a golden opportunity to request the same extension that Nelson City Council was granted - an opportunity to legitimately put a hold on fluoridation.

Make no mistake, we will file a judicial review if this Council decides not to seek this extension.

A time extension will allow us all to wait for further data about the efficacy and safety of fluoridation, which we now know is **very** different from what was previously believed.

Recent evidence has shown how ineffective water fluoridation is at reducing tooth decay. The CATFISH study showed that children exposed to fluoridated water had only a 4% reduction in tooth decay. The [LOTUS](#) study used 10 years of dental insurance records of 6.4 million adults in England and found essentially no reduction in tooth decay for those living in fluoridated areas. Both these recent studies have come out since the directives, so they change everything.

The results of these studies are vastly at odds with the efficacy claims made in the Chief Science Advisor's report which Dr Bloomfield relied on in making his directive.

That report, relies almost exclusively on the [Broadbent Dunedin study](#), but the US National Toxicology Programme's Review classified the Broadbent study as "low-quality" and they found it to have such a high risk of bias that they considered the results were nullified. So the Ministry of Health is relying on shoddy, biased data to push this "medical treatment" upon us?

So fluoride is not effective. Well, it's also not safe!

The recent NTP report found that 52 of 55 studies, and 18 of 19 high quality studies found increased fluoride ingestion causes lower IQ in children exposed as babies, with an average loss of 3 to 5 IQ points. Their report found no safe level of exposure.

Aside from the brain damage, Fluoride harms teeth, bones, the thyroid, our pineal gland, our endocrine system and more.

The evidence that fluoridation is more harmful than beneficial is now overwhelming. That is why we ask you to do the right thing to protect us, and take every avenue that you can to stop Fluoridation of Waitaki's water.

On behalf of Waitaki residents who oppose Fluoridation, I am asking the WDC to - at the very least, ask the Director General of Health for an extension to 31st of December. We also want you to confirm to the public that fluoride will not be added until at least that date.

You will have to forgive us for not feeling reassured when you say you won't fluoridate until "there is greater legal clarity" - given that you had previously intended to put fluoride in the water well prior to the directed date.

Clearly, there has not been a proper consideration of the legal risk you face from your own constituents.

Please do this, and give yourself some time for sober second thought about what is at stake here and what you are being asked to do.

Thank you.