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20 September 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2022009805

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 20 August 2022 for information relating to water fluoridation. You specifically requested:

“data on the adverse effects of fluoride and heavy metals used in water fluoridation on long term neurological and general health including endocrine and enzyme disruption, especially in the developing embryo and young children that were used to justify the statement that “there are no significant health effects at levels used in NZ.”

In 2014, the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor and the Royal Society of New Zealand reviewed the substantial body of scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of fluoridation of public water supplies. In June 2021, after considering new research on fluoridation and comprehensive reviews published since 2014, the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor found the conclusions of the Royal Society Te Aparangi remain appropriate. These reviews found that there were no adverse effects of fluoride of any significance arising from fluoridation at the levels used in New Zealand. These reviews are publicly available and can be found at: www.pmcsa.ac.nz/topics/fluoridation-an-update-on-evidence/.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

Jane Chambers
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