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14 October 2024

S9(2)(a)

By email: S9(2)(a)

Ref: H2023030941

Tēnā koe S9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was partially transferred from Palmerston North City Council to the Ministry of Health - Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 24 September 2024. You requested:

“Where’s the evidence that the Health minister states fluoride is good for us?”

In 2014, a comprehensive report was published by the Royal Society Te Apārangi, prepared jointly with the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, reviewing the substantial body of scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of fluoridation of public drinking water supplies. In June 2021, the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor carried out an update of the review.

The reports discuss the benefits of community water fluoridation for oral health. These reviews also concluded that there are no adverse health effects of any significance arising from fluoridation at the levels used in New Zealand. The reviews are publicly available and can be found at: www.pmcsa.ac.nz/topics/fluoridation-an-update-on-evidence

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Chambers'.

Jane Chambers
Group Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui