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30 August 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022009605

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 8 August 2022. You requested.

On 4 August 2022 The Cambridge News reported as follows:

“In reaching my decision, I also considered whether the benefits of adding fluoride to the drinking water outweigh the financial costs, taking into account the state or likely state of the oral health of your communities served by the Cambridge water supply,” Bloomfield told the council.

Please provide the oral health figures Dr Bloomfield relied on in making his decision and direction that Cambridge be fluoridated, and his cost-benefit analysis. Note: I require the figures he relied on, not figures held by another body but which he has never seen.

Please refer to the following link which has the letter sent to the Waipa District Council from the Director-General of Health directing the Council to fluoridate the Cambridge drinking water supply: www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/fluoride-and-oral-health/water-fluoridation/director-general-healths-role-decision-making-fluoridation-drinking-water-supplies. The letter contains the Director-General of Health’s reasons for the decision, including the oral health figures and the information considered in deciding whether the benefits of adding fluoride to the drinking water outweigh the financial costs.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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 black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Chambers', written in a cursive style.

Jane Chambers
Group Leader, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency