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18 October 2024

Erika Whittome

By email: fyi-request-28632-3067318d@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2024053047

Tēnā koe Erika

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) received by the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) as a transfer from Watercare Services Limited on 4 October 2024. You requested:

“Please provide the documents for the risk benefit analysis for fluoride that is added to our water as a medical treatment”

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.

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/

Further information is publicly available at the following links:

- www.health.govt.nz/publications/review-of-the-benefits-and-costs-of-water-fluoridation-in-new-zealand
- www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/oral-health/community-water-fluoridation-policy

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
General Manager, Public Health Policy and Regulation
Public Health Agency | Te Pou Hauora Tūmatanui