

27 June 2024

Dr Diana Sarfati  
Director-General of Health

[fluoride@health.govt.nz](mailto:fluoride@health.govt.nz)

Dear Dr Diana Sarfati

**Re: Information relevant to community water fluoridation Bill of Rights Act analysis**

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence regarding the analysis you are undertaking against the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) for the directive to fluoridate the Levin Water Supply made in 2022.

At a formal Council meeting on 26 June 2024, elected members discussed your letter dated 5 June 2024, outlining the information being considered as part of the NZBORA assessment, specifically in relation to Section 11 of the NZBORA Right to Refuse to undergo medical treatment: Everyone has the right to refuse to undergo any medical treatment, as well as consideration of the oral health outcomes and the profile of the population served by each water supply.

Horowhenua District Council would like to highlight concerns about the lack of community voice and consultation in this process. It should be acknowledged and noted that the fluoridation of water is a topic that attracts a wide range of viewpoints, and that those viewpoints based on the direction of the Ministry of Health have not had a local mechanism to provide feedback and contribute to decision making.

Horowhenua District Council seek to understand the other actions undertaken by the Ministry of Health to improve Children's Oral Health Care in our community. Including both access to care and provision of programmes to encourage drinking tap water over higher sugar drinks and seek assurance that local Iwi Whanau Ora providers have been engaged. Elected Members have requested that attention be given to historical data beyond the 2022 data provided in your letter dated 5 June 2022.

To conclude, Horowhenua District Council thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding local matters that may be relevant to your NZBORA analysis, but once again reiterate the concerns that our local community have not had an opportunity to give feedback to either the original directive, or the subsequent assessment against the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Monique Davidson  
**Chief Executive**

