

FLUORIDE ACTION NETWORK (N Z) (Inc)

www.fannz.org.nz

NEWSLETTER NO. 9 November 2007

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FANNZ is one of a number of organisations promoting good health through the removal of toxins from the food chain and environment. We are not 'just an anti-fluoride group'.

ARTIFICIAL FLUORIDATION: IT'S TOXIC WASTE!

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New Flyer and Poster to be Printed

Due to the number of fronts on which the DHBs have attacked this year, with little warning, the committee considered that we were unable to produce enough flyers with the funds kindly donated following the last newsletter to deploy effectively. The more flyers that can be printed at one time, the more we get for our money, as there is a set-up cost.

We have decided to produce three separate flyers from each A4 sheet, based on Don Church's excellent work in Ashburton. This focuses readers on one subject at a time, within the average attention span, giving more impact. This also gives us three times the number of flyers for our money, so we can reach three times as many people. Each flyer notes there are three in the set. We also wish to produce some A4 2-sided flyers which have been shown to be attractive to readers in trialling.

We can get 30,000 sets of flyers (90,000 in all) and 10,000 A4 flyers for about \$2200—2300.

Once we have this year's subs and donations we will be able to place the order for these. We are also placing a poster re the ADA's baby formula warning on the web site if any members wish to print copies of this for their own use. We will not post the flyers on the site until we can deploy them – no point giving advance warning to the enemy!

New Look Web Site

We have revamped the web to give it a more modern look and, more importantly, we have restructured it to focus on activities in New Zealand. This is so it can be used as an active tool to share information about campaigns around the country, and encourage a sense of community and support for those engaged in "the struggle with Titans".

SOUTH ISLAND REFERENDA RESULTS

This year there were a number of referenda in the South Island. All except Ashburton were held in conjunction with the local body elections.

Ashburton

The first was in Ashburton in March of this year. The council there had already made the decision to stop fluoridation in 2002, a decision they made after consultation with the community. However, with a new mayor who is pro-fluoridation, the DHB pushed for a referendum, held this year. Local anti-fluoridation campaigner and FANNZ committee member Don Church undertook an education campaign, distributing three sets of flyers and placing advertisements in the local papers. Thankfully, this all paid off and the residents of Ashburton voted 55% against fluoridation.

This referendum managed to grab the interest of TV3 and was featured on Campbell Live. The Campbell Live item was very good and gave a good representation from both sides, including an interview with Don Church and Yvonne McDonald (our Secretary and Christchurch co-ordinator who helped with the campaign). Since our side was fairly represented, the pro-fluoride side looked utterly ridiculous.

Southland

We are happy to say all the Southland wards voted against fluoridation. The total vote was 57% against fluoridation.

Otago

The Waitaki district also voted against fluoridation, as a result of really good community campaigning the vote was 71% against. The DHB originally offered to present the pros and cons of fluoridation to the Council in a balanced manner –yeah right! FANNZ approached the Council, who decided to allow FANNZ and the DHB one side each of an A4 sheet, to be included with voting papers. This approach has always worked in our favour. The sheet can be found on FANNZ' web site.

Also running for mayor was anti-fluoridation Alex Framilton. Perhaps Mr Framilton may be inclined to spread his wisdom to some of the Dunedin and councillors.

Unfortunately, the other two areas of Otago, Central and Clutha both voted for fluoridation. In the central district it was only a matter of about 200 votes (48%) but the Clutha district only managed about 40% of vote against fluoridation.

Therefore, these two areas are under immediate threat. FANNZ is in the process of contacting councillors on the Clutha District council and preparing a letter and information to send to both councils requesting we be allowed time to come and present our case to them before they decide. It would be extremely helpful if people could contact anyone they know living in that area and tell them what is happening and how they can contact FANNZ to get some local opposition organised.

The Otago DHB's recommendation that unfluoridated areas around Dunedin be fluoridated is being put into plan by the Council, as they prepare to build a large pipe from Dunedin city up the east coast. This pipe will supply Waitati, Karatane, and Warrington, against these small communities' wishes. These communities are very independent, strong, potentially self sufficient places where fluoride will not be easily swallowed. Local contact is Olive McRae.

The Far North

Sadly, the so called fluoridation trial began in Kaitiāia and Kaikohe on 31 March. FANNZ is supporting a strong team of local campaigners. They discovered that the 2 year "trial" in fact involves a 10 year potential financial liability on the Council unless a referendum ends the trial. This was never disclosed at the time – even to Councillors. One woman is prepared to take action by refusing to pay rates while she receives fluoridated water. The Council advised they would set debt collectors on her. We have advised her and others to group together and deduct the cost of a water filter from rates payments instead. We await further action.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD?

There's been plenty of news from around the world, however, one of the most significant events has been the an email alert sent last November to all of the members of the American Dental Association (ADA). The ADA issued this advice because babies being bottle fed with fluoridated water are at high risk for developing dental fluorosis—a defect of the teeth which can result in staining and even corrosion of the enamel.

However, dental fluorosis is not the only risk stemming from a baby's exposure to fluoride. In the same week that ADA issued its advisory, an article in the British journal, *The Lancet*, reported that fluoride may damage a child's developing brain. The *Lancet* review described fluoride, along with the rocket fuel additive perchlorate, as an "emerging neurotoxic substance" due to evidence linking fluoride to lower IQs in children, and brain damage in animals.

Further, the National Research Council's report identified other subgroups particularly susceptible to harm from fluoride – diabetics, those on dialysis or otherwise impaired kidney function. The US Lillie Center, a private health training company, has laid ethics charges against the CDC for trying to minimize the infant formula warning, and has advised the US Kidney Foundation through a lawyer's letter it will sue it if it doesn't warn its members about their increased risk. Commentators believe these two "bow shots" are a signal of something much bigger brewing.

Regarding the infant formula warning: "Newborn babies have undeveloped brains, and exposure to fluoride, a suspected neurotoxin, should be avoided," notes Hardy Limeback, a member of a 2003—2006 National Research Council panel on fluoride toxicity, and former President of the Canadian Association of Dental Research.

The US Public Health Service's Centers for Disease Control has also changed its guidelines advising that only water with less than 0.7 mg/l of fluoride should be used to reconstitute infant formula. Fluoridated water in New Zealand is between 0.7 mg/l and 1 mg/l with the aim being 0.85 mg/l. Obviously this is more than the American recommendation. The NZ standard for infant formula assumed that unfluoridated water would be used to reconstitute it. The Ministry of Health continues to repeat the lies that it was based on fluoridated water, and that the US warning was because of the high natural levels allowed (up to 4 ppm). This was not the basis, as the CDC clearly states.

This means that New Zealand parents and caregivers should not use fluoridated tap water for making up their babies bottles. The fluoride cannot be boiled out so they should either find a non-fluoridated source or buy bottled water. And all concerned people should write and lobby their local council to stop adding fluoride to the drinking water.

The United States—Individual States

Juneau, Alaska has voted to stop fluoridation, and Hawaii has passed a bylaw effectively banning fluoridation.

Australia

In Australia the Health Boards are using a twist in Australian law to try to force fluoridation on communities that do not want it. The battle rages like their bushfires. The people of Warrimbool have asked Prime Minister Howard to intervene and allow them a referendum.

On the Front Foot in Lower Hutt

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In response to the baby formula/fluoride warning FANNZ members approached the Hutt City Council and requested that they pass on this warning to parents and caregivers in Lower Hutt.

The Hutt City council responded by ordering a review of the situation by a Policy Analyst working for Capacity. Capacity is a joint body that takes care of the water for both Hutt and Wellington City Councils. The resulting paper appeared to have been ghost-written by the Ministry of Health as it contained all the usual MOH spin including many inaccuracies and misleading statements. The analyst admitted it was completely biased. When asked why it was completely biased by a councillor he stammered "That's a very difficult question for me to answer". Official Information provided to FANNZ confirmed our suspicions.

The paper basically said that the Hutt City Council should not pass on the warning as fluoride was good for teeth and that severe dental fluorosis had not increased in the past twenty years (never mind that dental fluorosis is now at 30% in fluoridated areas according to the MoH web site) and that the MoH didn't think they should.

FANNZ members were able to argue successfully that none of these reasons were good enough. One Councillor also pointed out false information in the report. The Hutt City Council is due to post the warning on its web site, with a link to FANNZ' site as well as the ADA, CDC, and MoH. Capacity again tried, unsuccessfully, to undermine the Councillors' instruction by producing, again in collusion with the MoH, a pro-fluoride page obscuring the warning. This page was rejected. When Capacity was formed we were advised categorically that it would play no role in fluoridation policy – our concerns were obviously well-founded.

Indications are that MoH have commissioned their 'hired gun' Environmental and Scientific Research (ESR) to produce a bogus report the MoH can use to 'justify' denying the infant formula claim in NZ. ESR has a public position on fluoridation, and a \$10 million a year conflict of interest on this issue (which is what they are paid each year by the MoH for various contracts).

As a result, a local group has formed in Lower Hutt to further press for cessation of fluoridation. Lower Hutt was the first NZ city to fluoridate after the Hastings 'experiment', being the 'personal crusade' of Mayor Percy Dowse. His refusal to consult the local Ratepayers's Association or the public led to the court case that went to the Privy Council.

Membership Renewal 2008

Please mail to The Treasurer, FAN(NZ) PO Box 9804 Marion Sq. Wellington.

I/WE ENCLOSE:

- \$10 annual subscription.
- Donation of \$____. Tick if receipt req'd: Please note the committee's request for donations to rebuild our funds for ongoing campaigns.

Total \$____.

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Fax:

- Group member.** How many individuals does your group represent or have as members?

Note: if your group is not incorporated, you will need to have one member subscribe on the group's behalf.

Are you interested in becoming a local co-ordinator? Y/N Note: the MoH is currently pushing for 100% fluoridation: we are all at risk.

Able to help? (a) Strong commitment____ (b) Can help____ (c) Unable to help.____ (Tick one)

Needed: letter writers, speakers, canvassers, delivering flyers, organising meetings.