

Letters to the editor

To correspondents

Marjorie Spittle; T. Jones; B. White; Neil Monkhouse; Bruce Spittle; N. Familton; Ross Harrington; Nola C. Walker. The correspondence on fluoride is closed.

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To correspondent

Evan Sadler: Correspondence on the issue is closed.

Letter to the editor

Fluoridation

PROPONENTS of fluoridation maintain the issue is a medical/dental one and a community should do as the experts say, meaning those experts who favour fluoridation.

They believe that all is in order because it has been put to the vote by a group of lay people wearing city councillor hats, who, on behalf of the Government of the day, enforce their stance on everyone irrespective of their wishes or concerns.

This is the supposedly democratic way in making the rest do what the majority wants.

Opponents of fluoridation maintain the issue is a political-ethical one. They seriously question whether any person or group in the absence of risk or spread of disease from pollution or contagion has the right to compel others to consume a substance against their will, thereby denying them the most basic of civil human rights – freedom of choice.

The gravity of brainwashing a community into accepting mass treatment in uncontrolled doses as in water fluoridation will be realised only too late when the ordinary people of this country have irretrievably lost a vital part of that which distinguishes Western democracy from dictatorship, thus paving the way as an unsafe and dangerous precedent.

We in Christchurch were awoken from apathy in the mid 1980s when, after part of our city was fluoridated for 23 years, the statistics for fluoridated and unfluoridated areas of

Christchurch were extracted under the Official Information Act. After a promise of up to 90 per cent reduction in dental decay, it was revealed that fluoridation had not made one iota of difference.

Today unfluoridated Christchurch has lesser incidence of tooth decay than fluoridated Otago and Southland when comparisons as recommended by the World Health Organisation are taken into account.

It is high time the people of Dunedin also became aware, and stopped swallowing pro-fluoridation propaganda with their daily doses of fluoridated water.

Yvonne McDonald
Christchurch

Send your letters to the Editor, Taieri Herald, PO Box 805, Invercargill or e-mail communities@stl.co.nz Pseudonyms may be used but writers must provide their name, address and phone number as a sign of good faith.

Letters must be no longer than 250 words and must be signed if they have a political content or if any criticism is personal. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, sense, legal reasons, or on the grounds of good taste.