

MediaSearch

Evening Post- 1st edition

28 July 2001

Wellington, NZ

Daily, PM

Circulation: 63,622

P.10

Fluoridation

WELLINGTON Regional Council's recent decision to **reject** a petition seeking a referendum on fluoridation was perhaps predictable, given that old thinking dies hard. The decision fails to **address** public concern that mass medication through the water supply using toxic industrial waste is unethical, unscientific and unsafe to human health and the environment.

There is good reason to challenge the **status quo**. Double-blind studies have shown adverse health effects even at the level of **1ppm** of fluoride in water. Not only is there no safety margin for dental **fluorosis**, but there is growing evidence that there may be no safety margin for changes to bone structure and impacts on the brain, thyroid, and other soft tissues, especially when iodide is **deficient**.

Fluoride itself is not an essential nutrient, as once thought. There is no known disease caused by fluoride **deficiency**. Research studies have shown a **definite** correlation between low income and the prevalence of dental decay. To advocate fluoridation for the disadvantaged is only likely to compound their problems. For dental health, as for health in general, there appears to be no substitute for good nutrition.

NOELINE GANNAWAY
Pure Water Association

Who's stupid?

I **WRITE** with regard to the recent refusal by Wellington Regional Council for a referendum on fluoridation. New Zealand is one of only six countries that has more than 40 percent of its water supply artificially fluoridated.

The regional council adds sodium **silicofluoride** to our public drinking water. This chemical comes from the phosphate fertiliser **industry**, where the fluoride is captured in the smokestacks, as it's not **allowed to** be released into the environment.

If these industries don't sell the fluoride to us to put into our drinking water, they have to pay to dispose of it.

We import the sodium **silicofluoride** from Japan where fluoridation has been banned. So here we are **drinking** other people's toxic waste. Aren't we the stupid ones?

MARY BYRNE
Petone

Against democracy

I **SEE** that Wellington Regional Council has voted against a referendum on fluoridation (The Evening Post, July 21).

I **find** it appalling that chairman Stuart **Macaskill** and those of his ilk, who have been elected by the people to represent the people, think **that because** they **personally** think fluoridation is a good idea that they have the right to dictate their opinion to everyone else and deny the citizens their democratic right to vote on the matter. I challenge all those regional **councillors** who voted against democracy to publicly identify themselves before the upcoming elections as **councillors** who put their opinions above the rights of their electors. Or are they afraid of losing votes?

MARK ATKIN
Kelson