



## **Submission on Nelson City Council's Draft Events Strategy**

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## **Introduction**

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Nelson City Council's (NCC) Draft Events Strategy.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH, particularly in relation to the need for a specific criteria to enhance community wellbeing. The submission discusses areas that NMH supports and also provides recommendations where NMH believes changes to the draft Strategy will better meet the Strategy's objectives to foster community wellbeing and a sense of identity.

## **General Comments**

4. NMH endorses the overall intention and the objectives of the draft Strategy. It is pleasing to see that a sense of identity and community wellbeing are amongst the cornerstones for the Strategy.
5. However the guiding principles for the Nelson Events Fund do not explicitly reflect the aforementioned objectives. This is the key area of the Strategy that could be strengthened. An additional principle could be added entitled Community wellbeing which assesses the level of social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing that an event would foster. The inclusion of such a principle would allow the Council to mitigate any potential negative consequences of a particular event e.g. waste management, levels of accessibility or harm from alcohol.
6. This new principle would also provide a measure for how well applications match the objective of an event that creates a sense of identity. Social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing are important considerations for families and working age people who are considering migrating to the region.

The principle would also align with the Community outcomes in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan that "*Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient.*"

## **Recommendation**

That a new guiding principle is added entitled Community wellbeing.

7. NMH notes that on page 8 that "Council will resource a Nelson Events Fund with two components, one to support events that foster community wellbeing and social outcomes, the other to support events that grow Nelson's economy". In order for each event to meet all the objectives of the strategy, these components should be inseparable when allocating public funds. NMH submit that all applications to this fund are considered in relation to their ability to foster community wellbeing and social outcomes.

**Recommendation**

That wording is amended to "Council will resource a Nelson Events Fund with two interrelated components..."

8. Furthermore, NMH recommends that the wording in Guiding Principle 2: Return on Investment is altered to further emphasise that community wellbeing and social outcomes are intertwined with supporting events that grow the local economy. This would then help to align this important events strategy with the vision under pinning the Nelson City Council 2015 – 2025 Long Term Plan which aims to, have an approach to living that is "...socially balanced and economically prosperous".

**Recommendation**

That the Return on Investment is changed to Return on investment needs to be clearly demonstrated in economic and/or community wellbeing terms.

**Conclusion**

9. NMH is strongly supportive of NCC's Draft Events Strategy. However, the draft strategy currently does not strongly integrate community wellbeing into the Nelson Events fund criteria. NMH believes that the addition of a specific wellbeing principle would align the funding section closely with the objectives of the Strategy.
10. NMH thanks NCC for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Events Strategy.

Yours sincerely



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