

TE WAI ORA



Nelson Marlborough
District Health Board

Submission on Nelson City Council Draft Annual Plan 2016/17

11 April 2015

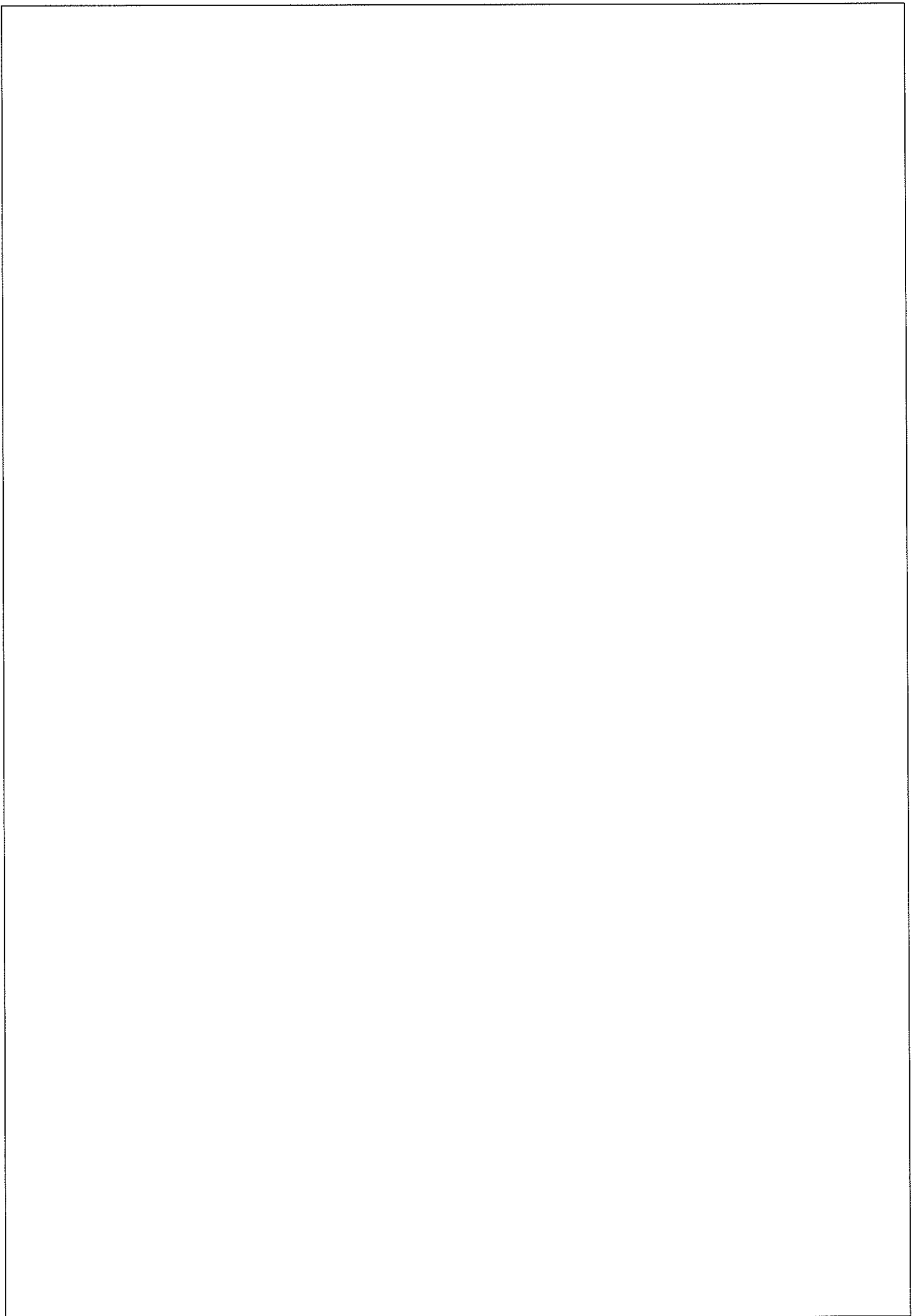
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Introduction

1. Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMDHB's Public Health Service (NMDHB-PHS) appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Nelson City Council (NCC) Draft Annual Plan 2016/17.
2. The NMDHB-PHS 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. The NMDHB-PHS notes that the NCC Draft Annual Plan contains very few variations from the Long Term Plan, and that the majority of the proposed changes are to provide for the development of organisational business cases to better inform decision making and cost effective solutions.
4. The NMDHB-PHS would like to take this opportunity to recommend that NCC considers making the streets and public spaces of the Nelson Central Business District (CBD) smokefree environments in association with its CBD enhancement project.
5. The NMDHB-PHS acknowledges that NCC has already undertaken some good work in this area by implementing smokefree signage in its bus stops, sports grounds, reserves and parks. The NMDHB-PHS commends NCC for these initiatives in extending smokefree environments beyond what is currently required by legislation and notes that this provides a good base to build further work on.

Smokefree environments

6. The NMDHB-PHS notes the NCC's intention to fund and support initiatives to enhance the CBD, as set out in its Long Term Plan and Draft Annual Plan. The NMDHB-PHS considers that making the CBD a smokefree environment will assist the CBD enhancement project goals of enhancing amenity values and encouraging activity, and will also improve public safety.
7. Evidence indicates that smokefree environments result in environmental benefits and improved community health and wellbeing. In summary, extending smokefree areas:
 - does not harm business^{1,2}
 - can reduce the impact of cigarette-related litter in outdoor areas, resulting in reduced cleaning costs, fire risk and environmental impacts³
 - is generally supported by the public⁴

¹ Loomis BR, Shafer PR, van Hasselt M. 2013. *The economic impact of smoke-free laws on restaurants and bars in 9 states*. Preventing Chronic Disease 10:120327

² World Health Organization. 2015. *Tobacco*. Fact sheet No 339. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe

³ Cancer Society of New Zealand and Health Sponsorship Council. 2008. *Smokefree councils implementation kit: A guide for local health promoters*. Wellington: Cancer Society of New Zealand and Health Sponsorship Council

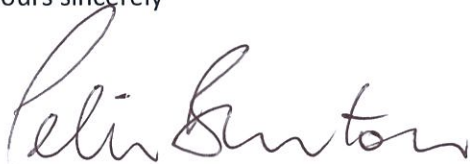
⁴ Health Promotion Agency. 2013. *Acceptability of extended smokefree areas and smokefree cars*. Wellington: Health Promotion Agency

- reduces the risk of adverse health effects from second-hand smoke exposure, de-normalises smoking especially around children,⁴ and encourages smokers to quit.²
8. The NMDHB-PHS is aware that smokefree environment policies are implemented in the CBDs or service areas of Palmerston North, Napier, Hastings, and Horowhenua. Additionally, Wellington and Christchurch city councils have made a commitment in their long term plans to introduce such policy.
 9. While councils tend to use self-policing signage as a means for implementing their smokefree policies and no fines apply, experience indicates that this approach is educative through promoting smokefree messages and is effective in achieving smokefree objectives.⁵ Signage can deter people from smoking, empower members of the public to ask people to comply, and can support it becoming an accepted behaviour not to smoke in the designated areas over time.⁵

Conclusion

10. The NMDHB-PHS thanks the NCC for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Annual Plan 2016/17.
11. The NMDHB-PHS recommends NCC to consider making the streets and public spaces of the Nelson CBD smokefree environments.
12. Evidence indicates that smokefree environments protect the health of non-smokers, are popular, do not harm business, encourage smokers to quit,² reduce litter impacts³, and de-normalises smoking, especially around children.⁴
13. The NMDHB-PHS sees it as very important for the NCC to continue to work in partnership with the NMDHB-PHS on smokefree environments and welcomes further discussion on this particular matter.
14. The NMDHB-PHS **does not wish to be heard** in support of its submission.

Yours sincerely



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⁵ Marsh L, Robertson LA, Kimber H, Witt M. 2014. *Smokefree outdoor areas in New Zealand: How far have we come?* The New Zealand Medical Journal 127:1389