

MEDIA RELEASE

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Statement about the proposed community water fluoridation legislative changes

Nelson Marlborough Health welcomes the announcement by Ministers Coleman and Dunne regarding the proposed legislative changes that will allow district health boards to decide whether a region's water is fluoridated.

"Nelson Marlborough Health has known for a long time that dental decay is an important public health issue with significant ethnic and socio-economic health inequalities relating to both oral health status and access to our regional dental services," Mr Fleming says.

"This is why the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board formally adopted a position statement on community water fluoridation in 2015.

"Every year, our dentists have the unenviable task of surgically removing teeth from 250 children under general anaesthesia.

"Obviously a legislative process needs to occur but this is very encouraging news. We look forward to engaging with the process, our three councils and of course the community," Mr Fleming says.

Read the [Nelson Marlborough Health Community Water Fluoridation statement online](#).

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