

**Marlborough District
Council**

Draft Annual Plan

2019-2020

6 May 2019

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Submitter details

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 o te Waka a Maui. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Marlborough District Council's Draft Annual Plan.
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.

Specific Comments

4. NMH supports investment into the Lansdowne Park Sports Hub as this will be a great community asset which will support physical activity in the region. In addition, NMH supports investment on the Blenheim Library/Art Gallery because these are important community assets that provide places of social interaction which is important for people's mental health.
5. NMH encourages MDC to work closely with the Youth Council and Accessibility groups to ensure that community developments are easily accessible and attractive to all age groups.
6. In regards to Solid Waste, NMH supports the Council's stewardship approach by industry players to recover and reprocess treated timber products.
7. NMH supports the Council's approach to environmental protection in relation to active monitoring of water takes.

Drinking Water, Sewerage and Stormwater

8. Emerging issues for these topics do not mention the Government review on how to improve the regulation and supply arrangements of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater (Three Waters). This aims to better support New Zealand's prosperity, health, safety and environment. Most three waters assets and services, but not all, are owned and delivered by local councils. The immediate priority is proposed new regulatory arrangements for drinking water and environmental performance of wastewater and stormwater systems.
9. Challenges to the systems and communities include:
 - Meeting community expectations for water quality, treatment and management e.g. issues such as storm and wastewater discharge onto mahinga kai.

- Meeting regulatory requirements for water quality, treatment and management.
 - The ability to replace ageing infrastructure or fund and manage new infrastructure (by local authorities but also for rural communities including marae and papakāinga).
 - Declining rating bases in some areas, high growth in others.
 - High seasonal demand in small tourism centres.
 - Adapting for climate change (including water shortages) and adverse natural events.
10. NMH supports and is working with Council to update the 2005 Water and Sanitary Services Assessment under the Local Government Act 2002. The purpose of an assessment under section 125 of the Act is to assess, from a public health perspective, the adequacy of water and other sanitary services available to communities within a territorial authority's district, in light of—
- the health risks to communities arising from any absence of, or deficiency in, water or other sanitary services; and
 - the quality of services currently available to communities within the district; and
 - the current and estimated future demands for such services; and
 - the extent to which drinking water provided by water supply services meets applicable regulatory standards; and
 - the actual or potential consequences of stormwater and sewage discharges within the district.
11. One potential outcome of the Government reviews and local assessments is that communities will not be able to afford the upgrade or installation of appropriate treatment systems. As has been experienced by Council in drinking water, communities may ask for Council to provide infrastructure or take over existing assets and run a treatment plant. NMH recommends that this impact needs to be anticipated in planning documents and budgets.
12. **Sewage:** NMH supports the Seddon and Havelock wastewater treatment plant consents with revised conditions including upgraded treatment. NMH also supports increasing treatment capacity at the Blenheim sewage treatment plant to meet continuing growth in trade waste.

13. **Water supply:** NMH supports the:

- upgrade of the Renwick, Havelock and Wairau Valley treatment plants to achieve compliance with the Drinking Water Standards for NZ
- active leak detection for all Council supplies
- the Council proposal to address capacity issues for Renwick and Havelock

14. **Environmental Policy:** NMH supports the

- a staged implementation programme to establish a minimum aquifer level for the Wairau Aquifer
- establishing freshwater quality limits
- monitoring and capacity assessments of housing

15. **Environmental Science and Monitoring:** NMH supports the

- increased funding and resources to meet National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards
- diffuse pollution and sediment run-off monitoring
- programme to determine the cumulative effects of agricultural spray drift on air quality

Smokefree environments:

16. NMH congratulates MDC's commitment to Smokefree 2025 Aotearoa and is pleased that MDC has an existing smokefree policy in place as smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in New Zealand. In recent years, many councils around New Zealand have extended their policies to restricting smoking in outdoor dining areas and central business districts. The 2018 Nelson Tasman's Fresh Air Project showed that 95.8% of customers were in support of smokefree outdoor dining and 73.5% of customers were more likely to visit again because a café was smokefree.¹

17. NMH strongly recommends that MDC works closely with NMH to broaden the range of smokefree strategies for the region.

18. Making outdoor dining areas and the CBD smokefree will enhance amenity values and encourage activity. Evidence shows that extending smokefree areas:

- does not harm business^{2,3} ,

¹ <https://www.smokefree.org.nz/smoking-its-effects/health-effects>

² 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

³ World Health Organization. 2015. *Tobacco*. Fact sheet No 339. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe

- can reduce the impact of cigarette-related litter in outdoor areas, resulting in reduced cleaning costs, fire risk and environmental impacts⁴
- is generally supported by the public⁵
- reduces the risk of adverse health effects from second-hand smoke exposure, de-normalises smoking especially around children, and encourages smokers to quit⁴

Cross Sector Action Plan for Newcomers

19. NMH would like to acknowledge and thank MDC for all its past and current activity that supports newcomers to the district to settle and participate fully in the community – such as your leadership in the Migrant Wellbeing Working Group, financial support for the recent research on the needs and challenges for migrants, support for celebration activities in the community and the citizenship ceremonies.

20. This submission draws your attention to the draft Top of the South Cross Sector Action Plan (attached). The action plan had its beginnings in Nelson Tasman, when the Nelson Multicultural Council (now Multicultural Nelson Tasman) commissioned some research that reported on the needs and challenges for migrants and refugees. The research had an intersectoral advisory group and generated a lot of enthusiasm among a wide variety of agencies with an interest in responding to the findings. This led to the formation of a working group under the sponsorship of Nelson Marlborough Health's General Manager Maori Health & Vulnerable Populations. Working with the Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum, the Working Group prepared a draft cross sector action plan which has recently been presented to the Top of The South Impact Forum.

21. As part of preparing the cross sector action plan there has also been engagement with Marlborough representatives – email inclusion of Marlborough Migrant Centre; attendance at a Marlborough Migrant Wellbeing Working Group meeting at which the key themes from the recent research along the migrant community in Marlborough were presented; and presentation of the draft plan to MDC representatives on Wednesday 3 April. The draft action plan thus incorporates some understanding of the key issues in Marlborough.

22. As it has recently been confirmed that Marlborough will become a new centre for settlement of refugees in 2020, the cross sector action plan takes on increased relevance to the Marlborough district.

⁴ 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

⁵ Health Promotion Agency. 2013. *Acceptability of extended smokefree areas and smokefree cars*. Wellington: Health Promotion Agency

23. It is emphasised that many organisations have a role to play in making the Top of the South a great community that supports the successful settlement and well-being for migrants and people from a refugee background.

24. This submission draws the Council's attention to the draft cross sector action plan and highlights those particular actions that MDC can take to participate in implementation of the plan.

25. We have attached a copy of the plan for more detailed information about the background and rationale for the plan as well as the actions proposed.

26. We encourage Marlborough District Council to take a lead in implementing actions from the plan (referenced below) as follows:

- Supporting the ongoing provision of community events that bring local and newcomers together in cooperative and beneficial way (Action 3, page 9) with sustainable, annual funding.
- Contribute to community capacity to deliver welcoming initiatives and support ongoing connections and integration (Action 4 page 10)
- Utilise Council resources to make information readily accessible (Action 5 page 10) – e.g. ensuring the Council website prominently displays key information and links that newcomers would need; libraries continue to be welcoming and accessible sources of information; Council publications and communications acknowledge the diversity of the population
- Ensure there is resourcing within the Council organisation to enable translation of essential public resources, such as bus timetables, into key languages (Action 6 page 10)
- Ensure the delivery of training that enhances cultural competency/intercultural knowledge and skills of MDC staff (Action 7, page 11). This might be through running workshops specifically for Council staff and/or enabling attendance at workshops in the community.
- Partner with other agencies to ensure the sustainable funding for delivery of navigation services in the community (Action 10, page 12). We are extremely appreciative that NCC has made a 3-year commitment to the new community navigator position based at Victory Community Centre. There will be an ongoing need for this service and NCC should work to ensure that other agencies also contribute funding so that this can be expanded and sustained over time. As part of this, ongoing contributory funding from NCC recognises that a navigation

service will assist in access to Council services as well as wider community services.

- Allocate resources internally to ensure that interpreters are available to assist access to NCC services (Action 11, page 13). Joining up with interpreter services sources by other organisations will enable a 'critical mass' of quality, skilled, accessible interpreters.
- Adopt a Welcoming Communities approach, utilising MBIE frameworks and resources (Action 16, page 15). Welcoming Communities has been developed in recognition that communities are healthier, happier and more productive when newcomers are welcomed and participate fully in society and in the local economy. ⁶We encourage the Council to lead the development and implementation of a 'Welcoming Plan' for Marlborough, possibly in conjunction with other Top of the South Councils. This action may well be the most important in the immediate future as the Marlborough community prepares to welcome refugees as newcomers to the district.

27. With the information from the recent research, the support of Immigration NZ, the guidance of the cross sector action plan and the local knowledge, interest and expertise of the Migrant Wellbeing Working group, Marlborough is well placed to prepare an exemplary Welcoming Plan. Additionally, the Welcoming Communities framework may well provide an ongoing way in which the collaboration that has resulted in the cross sector action plan can be continued.



Meeting the Needs
of Newcomers - Cro:

⁶ <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/welcoming-communities>

Conclusion

28. NMH thanks the Marlborough District Council for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Annual Plan.
29. NMH believes that many of the variations to the Long Term Plan 2018-18, as set out in the Draft Annual Plan, will benefit community health and wellbeing as discussed in this submission.
30. NMH **wishes to be heard** in support of its submission.

Yours sincerely

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