

**Select Committee Bill:
Smoke-free Environments
(Prohibiting Smoking in
Motor Vehicles Carrying
Children) Amendment Bill**

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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. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Smoke-free Environments (Prohibiting Smoking in Motor Vehicles Carrying Children) Amendment Bill.
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.

General Comments

4. NMH commends the Government for introducing the Smoke-free Environments (Prohibiting Smoking in Motor Vehicles Carrying Children) Amendment Bill. It is well documented that tobacco-related harm is a leading cause of preventable death and hospitalisation in New Zealand. Tobacco related diseases affect both the users and those exposed to tobacco smoke. The relationship between tobacco smoking, the detrimental effects on the body, and the social and economic impacts of such harm is broadly known, particularly in Maori and Pacific communities. This Bill will seek to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke in vehicles which will protect children from the risk of serious medical conditions such as asthma and lower respiratory illnesses associated with exposure to second-hand smoke¹.
5. There is strong public support for this legislation. The 2016 Health Promotion Agency's Health and Lifestyles Survey² found that 93.8% of respondents favour banning smoking in cars if children are present.
6. NMH notes that the infringement fee is low compared with infringement fees for mobile phone use (\$80) and seat-belt non-compliance (\$150). As identified in the Regulatory Impact Statement³, the populations that are more likely to smoke in motor vehicles carrying children, tend to be economically disadvantaged. This

¹ <https://www.smokefree.org.nz/smoking-its-effects/second-hand-smoke>

² <https://www.hpa.org.nz/research-library/research-publications/2016-health-and-lifestyles-survey-questionnaire>

³ <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/ris-prohibiting-smoking-motor-vehicles-8feb19-redactd.pdf>

would mean people who already have relatively few resources may be adversely affected by fines. Therefore NMH supports the fine being \$50.

7. NMH would like to use this opportunity to lobby the Government for stronger smokefree outdoor policies. All around the country, differing health boards are working with councils to install stronger smokefree outdoor policies for towns, outdoor dining, beaches, CBDs. While these policies have been effective at a very local level, in order to strengthen social norms around the undesirability of smoking and reduce smoking prevalence, consideration needs to be given for national legalisation.

Conclusion

8. NMH thanks the Select Committee for the opportunity to comment on the consultation on Smoke-free Environments (Prohibiting Smoking in Motor Vehicles Carrying Children) Amendment Bill.

Yours sincerely



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