

# **Marlborough District Council**

## **Draft Marlborough Regional Events Strategy 2020- 2022**

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For more information please contact:  
Jane Murray  
NMDHB Public Health Service  
Email: [jane.murray@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:jane.murray@nmdhb.govt.nz)  
Phone: (03) 543 7805

## **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 Marlborough Council's request for feedback for the Draft Marlborough Regional Events Strategy 2020- 2022.
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 the Regional Events Strategy as a whole but recommends that when key events are planned, that the health impacts are considered, planned for and resourced appropriately.
5. NMH supports the revised Strategic Aims that include maximising community wellbeing. The prominence of wellbeing within the Strategy will enable MDC to enact policy, develop partnerships, allocate resources and monitor to ensure that events can provide not only for economic wellbeing as identified in the previous strategy but for social, environmental and cultural benefits. It would be beneficial to define what "wellbeing" means within the context of an event strategy so Council and community expectations align.
6. NMH supports the introduction of an aim that minimises waste at events as this will reduce the impact of event waste going to landfill and its subsequent effects on the environment.
7. NMH supports the inclusion of the goal to offer a wide range of free, family friendly events. These type of events provide important opportunities for all sectors of the community to meet and socialise which is important to social connectedness and mental wellbeing.
8. NMH was pleased to note the inclusion of a goal relating to reducing barriers and making events are accessible to all. Everyone who attends an event should feel welcome and be able to enjoy events to the fullest. Access needs can vary for a range of people e.g. older people, carers with prams, cyclists, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people recovering from injuries, wheelchair users. Therefore it is important that access needs are considered during the

planning process. Christchurch City Council has developed a useful Accessibility and Inclusion Checklist that MDC might wish to consider adapting<sup>1</sup>.

9. NMH notes that there is no reference to MDC's Smokefree events policy<sup>2</sup> within the Regional Events Strategy. NMH recommends that a new goal is added under Aim 2 which states that "All events held on Council owned venues or where Council is a sponsor are to be Smokefree." This would reinforce the importance of smokefree messaging.

## Conclusion

10. NMH thanks the Marlborough District Council for the opportunity to feedback on the Draft Marlborough Regional Events Strategy 2020- 2022.

Yours sincerely



Peter Bramley  
**Chief Executive**  
peter.bramley@nmhs.govt.nz

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/News-Events/Events/2017/Accessibility-Events-Checklist-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/parks-and-reserves/smokefree-position-statement>