



Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) Bill

Health Committee

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For more information please contact:

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Introduction

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 Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) 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 the Public Health Service, NMH.

General Comments

4. NMH welcomes the introduction of this Bill that will set mandatory regulation under the Fair Trading Act prescribing a product safety standard for sunscreen products and requires that existing voluntary Australian/NZ Standard (AS/NZ 2604:2012) become mandatory.
5. Consumer NZ found in 2018¹, only four of 19 sunscreens met their SPF label claims and requirements for broad-spectrum protection. New Zealand has the highest incidence rate of melanoma² and one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, it is critical that sunscreen standards become mandatory in order to assist New Zealander consumers to select a product which they can trust to protect their skin from the adverse effects of UV radiation. The regular use of sunscreen, along with other sun protection strategies, reduces the incidence of skin cancers.

Conclusion

6. NMH thanks the Health Committee for the opportunity to comment on Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) Bill.

Yours sincerely



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¹ [Big brands fail sunscreen test - Consumer NZ](#)

² [Skin cancer | Ministry of Health NZ](#)