

AMENDMENT TO THE HEALTH POLICY RATIFIED 17th APRIL 2013

INSERT the following three sections, under the heading of 'Dental Health', into the Health Policy (suggest after '13. Child Health' section; renumber subsequent section headings as necessary):

14. DENTAL HEALTH

1. Dealing with the causes of poor dental health

The Green party will:

1. Ensure every family has sufficient income to live on (see Work and Employment Policy).
2. Promote education programmes that raise awareness of the causes and prevention of poor dental health.
3. Require foods and beverages with a high risk of causing dental caries to carry a warning on the products' label.
4. Introduce a levy on all high-risk beverage and food products, and use this to help fund expanded primary dental health services.
5. Ensure schools provide nutritious foods and lunches in schools, school tuck shops, and vending machines.

2. Improving access to primary dental care

The Green party will:

1. Continue to support free dental care for children and young people under 18 years of age.
2. Increase access to dental care for schools using the most cost-effective method (e.g. mobile, local hub, or on-site clinics) on a case-by-case basis.
3. Increase child dental health services in at risk areas.
4. Liaise with Plunket and other parent support services to identify and target at risk families for increased dental services.
5. Provide free dental care for students, beneficiaries and those on superannuation.
6. Provide one free annual dental check for all New Zealanders aged 18 and over.
7. Ensure parents are informed of the benefits of non-amalgam fillings and of their rights to request these as part of their child's free dental care service.
8. Provide public funding of non-cosmetic orthodontic treatments when the deformity damages a child's health.

3. Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies

The issue of fluoridating community water supplies requires a difficult balance between the public health effects and the rights of individuals to opt out altogether or avoid excessive intake. The Party membership has indicated that when considering fluoridation proposals, the Green party caucus shall:

- have particular regard to the public health benefits of fluoridated community water supplies.
- have particular regard to the potential public health risks of excessive fluoride consumption via community water supplies.
- have regard for the ability of individuals to opt out.

The Green party will:

1. Support the use of 'opt-out' options by local authorities for residents living in areas with fluoridated public water supplies, where they are shown to be feasible.
2. Commission an independent study into the impacts of fluoridation on public health.
3. Support education initiatives to advise caregivers of the potential for babies to

develop dental fluorosis when mixing formula with fluoridated water.

DELETE the following policy points from the Health Policy, as they are either included in or have been replaced by the new Dental Health section:

2. Public Health and Illness Prevention -

Policy point 2.5: *"Provide free dental care for students, beneficiaries and those on superannuation."*

Policy point 2.6: *"Provide one free annual dental check for all New Zealanders."*

13. Child Health -

Policy point 6, 3rd bullet point only: *"Support a levy on products which are detrimental to dental health such as soft drinks to be allocated to a standalone fund to assist in dental treatment for under 18 year olds."*

Policy point 7: *"Improve access to free dental care for all children under 18, and review dental care services to examine why children are not accessing free care."*

Policy point 8: *"Ensure parents are informed of the benefits of non-amalgam fillings and of their rights to request these as part of their child's free dental care service."*

Policy point 9: *"Provide public funding of non-cosmetic orthodontic treatments when the deformity damages a child's health."*

Policy point 10: *"Promote alternatives to fluoridation and mass medication in community water supplies, to lower dental caries. Options can include:*

- Promoting comprehensive oral health and education in preschools and schools, including brush-ins.*
- Ensuring schools provide nutritious, healthy foods and lunches in schools, school tuck shops, and vending machines.*
- Providing screening, risk assessment, and referrals for publicly funded dental sealants and fluoride varnishes for those at high risk of developing dental caries."*