



22 May 2018

**Submission to the Governance and Administration Committee:**

**Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill**

1. The New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine thanks the Governance and Administration Committee for the opportunity to make a submission on the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
2. The New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (NZCPHM) is the professional body representing the medical specialty of public health medicine in New Zealand. We have 236 members, all of whom are medical doctors, including 183 fully qualified Public Health Medicine Specialists with the majority of the remainder being registrars training in the specialty of public health medicine.
3. Public Health Medicine is the branch of medicine concerned with the assessment of population health and health care needs, the development of policy and strategy, health promotion, the control and prevention of disease, and the organisation of services. The NZCPHM strives to achieve health gain and equity for our population, reducing inequalities across socioeconomic and cultural groups, and promoting environments in which everyone can be healthy.

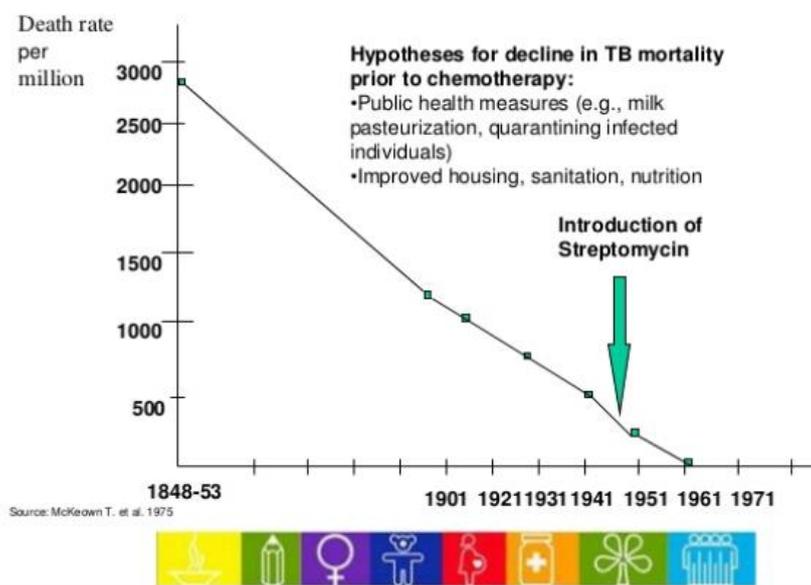
**Background**

4. The NZCPHM recognises the importance of the social, economic and physical environment in determining the physical and mental health of communities.<sup>1</sup>
5. Research into tuberculosis mortality in England and Wales, for example, shows massive decreases in mortality prior to the introduction of antibiotics, achieved by improvements in living standards, for example in sanitation and housing.
6. Local government is in a unique position to influence the wellbeing of the community it serves. In addition to the provision of drainage, sewerage works, drinking water and refuse collection, local authorities also play a role through urban design (including provision of green spaces and well connected, safe active transport networks), resource management, and recreation facilities and amenities.

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<sup>1</sup> Barton H, Grant M. A health map for the local human habitat. *The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health* 126 (6), pp 252–253.

## Structural interventions contributed to a massive decrease in TB mortality in England and Wales prior to curative interventions



Source: O'Malley et al. Influencing Health Outcomes from outside the health sector<sup>2</sup>

- Local government can influence population health, for example, through the creation of safe environments that, in conjunction with transport policies which promote active and sustainable modes of transport, support people to be more active in their everyday lives. Lack of physical activity is associated with an increased risk of adverse health outcomes, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer and mortality.<sup>3,4,5,6</sup> A high prevalence of these conditions leads to a high burden on the New Zealand Health system.<sup>7,8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> O'Malley J, Kim J, Lutz, B, Pronyk P Influencing health outcomes from outside the health sector: Social Determinant, Structural Interventions and Development Policy  
<https://www.slideshare.net/undphivandhealth/jeffrey-omalley-social-determinants-of-health-and-development-policy-at-yale-university>

<sup>3</sup> Chau JY, Grunseit AC, Chey T, Stamatakis E, Brown WJ, Matthews CE et al. Daily Sitting Time and All-Cause Mortality: A Meta-Analysis. PLoS ONE. 2013. 8(11). Available at  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0080000>

<sup>4</sup> Thorp AA, Owen N, Neuhaus M, Dunstan DW. Sedentary Behaviors and Subsequent Health Outcomes in Adults: A Systematic Review of Longitudinal Studies, 1996–2011. Am J of Pre Med. 2011. 41(2): 207-215. Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2011.05.004>.  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0749379711003126>

<sup>5</sup> Brown WJ, Pavey T, Bauman AE. Comparing population attributable risks for heart disease across the adult lifespan in women. Br J Sports Med. 2014. Available at:  
<http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2014/04/15/bjsports-2013-093090>

<sup>6</sup> Lee I, Shiroma EJ, Lobelo F, Puska P, Blair SN, Katzmarzyk PT. Effect of physical inactivity on major non-communicable diseases worldwide: an analysis of burden of disease and life expectancy. Lancet. 2012. 380:219-29. Available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22818936>

<sup>7</sup> Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, Wellington Regional Strategy Committee. The costs of physical inactivity: towards a regional full-cost accounting perspective. Market Economics Limited. 2013. Available at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/About-GW-the-region/News-and-media-releases/Physical-inactivity-costs-report.pdf>

A lack of physical activity and safe community spaces may also contribute to the high incidence of childhood obesity in New Zealand.<sup>9,10</sup> This is associated with a wide range of health complications, and increased risk of premature onset of illnesses such as diabetes and is a significant factor for adult obesity with associated premature mortality and chronic morbidity.<sup>11</sup>

#### Position:

8. The NZCPHM is supportive of the objective in the proposed amendment to re-establish the purpose of local government as being “to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities” (Clause 4).
9. In order to effect this, the NZCPHM supports the proposed definitional changes (Clause 5), including the proposed definition of “community outcomes” as “the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in order to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of its district or region in the present and for the future”.
10. We agree with the provision that this purpose must be achieved by taking a sustainable development approach (Clause 4). However, understandings of what is meant by ‘sustainable development’ may differ.<sup>12</sup> We suggest that a definition of this term be provided and that this should include a reference to the three ‘pillars’ of development: economic development; social development, including actions taken to promote equity; and environmental development, including actions taken to mitigate climate change. The NZCPHM recognises climate change as a serious risk to global public health, development and equity.<sup>13</sup>
11. The NZCPHM has no objection to the amendment which proposes to restore the power of territorial authorities to collect developmental contributions for public amenities intended to enhance community well-being (Clause 11).
12. We recommend that measures be adopted to evaluate wellbeing and guide local government in this role.

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<sup>8</sup> Pratt M, Norris J, Lobelo F, Roux L, Wang G. The cost of physical inactivity: moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Br J Sports Med. 2014. 48:171–173. Available at <http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/48/3/171.full.pdf+html>

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Health. Obesity data and stats webpage (<http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/obesity-data-and-stats>)

<sup>10</sup> World Health Organization. Report of the commission on ending childhood obesity. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2016 ([http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204176/1/9789241510066\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204176/1/9789241510066_eng.pdf))

<sup>11</sup> World Health Organization. Report of the commission on ending childhood obesity. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2016 ([http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204176/1/9789241510066\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204176/1/9789241510066_eng.pdf))

<sup>12</sup> Kates RW, Parris TM, Leiserowitz AA. Editorial-What Is Sustainable Development? Goals, Indicators, Values, and Practice, Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development <http://www.environmentmagazine.org/Editorials/Kates-apr05-full.html>

<sup>13</sup> NZCPHM Climate Change Policy Statement, 2013, [https://www.nzcpmh.org.nz/media/85321/2016\\_05\\_03\\_nzcpmh\\_climate\\_change\\_substantive\\_policy\\_final.pdf](https://www.nzcpmh.org.nz/media/85321/2016_05_03_nzcpmh_climate_change_substantive_policy_final.pdf)

The NZCPHM is happy to provide further clarification on any matter covered in this submission.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FD', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Felicity Dumble, President, NZCPHM