

15 June 2015

Draft LAPP
Masterton District Council
PO Box 444
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To whom it may concern

Re: Submission on Masterton and Carterton District Councils Draft Local Approved Products Policy (LAPP)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on the Draft LAPP for Masterton and Carterton District Councils.

Regional Public Health (RPH) serves the greater Wellington region through its three District Health Boards: Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and Capital & Coast, and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier and safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff covers a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts. Our organisation has an important role in the monitoring and enforcement of the psychoactive substances legislation.

The use of psychoactive substances is a concern in the community for individuals, families, local businesses and community providers/services. The use of these mind-altering products requires a response that allows for close scrutiny and monitoring of such substances. Surveillance, regulation and enforcement are vital in the effective management of these products. Such actions will assist in limiting the negative health and social effects that may occur with their use.

RPH commends the Masterton and Carterton District Councils on their proactive decision to restrict where sellers of psychoactive substances can be located through the development of a Local Approved Products Policy.

General comments

Our submission is in line with the Ministry of Health's framework for National Drug Policy in New Zealand which adopts strategies in supply control, demand reduction and problem limitation.

Protecting the people most at risk of harm from psychoactive substances is assisted by reducing access to psychoactive substance retailers near sensitive sites while maintaining a balanced approach by allowing a small number of approved retailers to sell psychoactive substances safely and responsibly.

Regional Public Health supports:

- The purpose of the draft policy and the intent of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013.
- The contents of the draft policy i.e.
 - The location of outlets being restricted to those areas outlined in Schedule 1 of the Draft LAPP which includes maps identifying where retail premises might be located in the Masterton and Carterton Districts.
 - The minimum distance between each outlet of 500m.
 - Restricting the location and proximity of premises selling psychoactive substances to at least 100 metres away from sensitive sites as identified within the Draft LAPP.
 - Outlets being located in areas that have good sightlines, regular foot traffic and other safety features such as CCTV cameras. Having a high level of public surveillance helps minimise the risk of harm to people using psychoactive substances and helps prevent illegal activities associated with the sale of psychoactive substances.

Within the Draft LAPP you have included a definition of what a sensitive site is which includes high deprivation areas. It is unclear within the policy what a high deprivation area is. This policy should provide clarity on what a high deprivation area is and whether it will be defined by mesh block or Census Area Unit. This will provide an understanding of what a high deprivation area is for prospective retailers, community and licence granting authorities.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission.

RPH **does not** wish to be heard at any oral submissions in regards to this policy.

The contact point for this submission is:

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Regards

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