

22 March 2019

Miriam Dean CNZM QC
Chair, Electricity Pricing Review Expert Advisory Panel
C/- Panel Secretariat, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
15 Stout Street
PO Box 1473
AUCKLAND 6140

Re: Electricity Pricing Review

Tēna koe Miriam

Regional Public Health would like to formally register our agreement and support for the submissions made by Sustainability Trust and He Kainga Oranga, University of Otago on the Electricity Pricing Review.

Regional Public Health delivers population and personal health services in the greater Wellington region. Our geographic area of service delivery spans Hutt Valley, Capital & Coast and Wairarapa DHBs. We aim to improve the health of communities; in particular we focus on achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori, Pacific peoples, children and youth, low income families and other vulnerable groups.

With our partners Sustainability Trust, Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust and He Kainga Oranga, Regional Public Health delivers Well Homes, one of the nine Healthy Housing Initiatives under the Ministry of Health's Rheumatic Fever Prevention programme.

Well Homes aims to reduce crowding and to assist whānau in making their homes safe, healthy and dry. Child wellbeing is our top priority and Well Homes works closely with whānau who are low income or work with Oranga Tamariki, who have children with respiratory conditions or who have been previously hospitalised, and with mothers who are pregnant or who have newborn babies. The Well Homes team carries out assessments with the family in their home and identifies needs which may include structural damage or safety, insulation, heating and curtains as well as provide education around ventilation and how to reduce, treat and prevent mould. *The health benefits of improving heating in homes is only as good as the ability of that whānau to afford to use the available heating.*

The submissions made by Sustainability Trust and He Kainga Oranga are based on first hand observation of the direct health impacts of electricity pricing and supply for vulnerable populations. They have offered insights with some potential solutions based on their knowledge of what works and international examples. Their observations are in line with what Regional Public Health's Well

Homes programme is seeing. Fuel poverty, also known as energy affordability or energy hardship, is used as frame for their discussion and solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. We do not wish to speak at the forthcoming hearings.

The point of contact for this letter of support is:

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Programme Manager, Well Homes

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Naku noa, na

Dr Craig Thornley
Medical Officer of Health

Peter Gush
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