

29th June 2017

Local Board Plans
Albert-Eden Local Board
Auckland Council



Dear Albert-Eden Local Board members,

Re: Smokefree implementation should be a priority in your three year Local Board Plan

Cancer Society Auckland Northland Division (CSAN) thanks you for the opportunity to submit to your three year draft plan.

Cancer Society would like to acknowledge your ongoing commitment to smokefree in your draft Local Board Plan which states in *Outcome 1: Albert-Eden has a strong sense of community 'Reducing crime and keeping our public spaces smoke-free and alcohol-free are priorities' (p.12)*. It is really positive to see that your local board recognises the importance of continuing to implement smokefree public places.

Smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in New Zealand. Every year 5000 people die in New Zealand from smoking related illness.ⁱ Smokefree public places help people to quit and stay quit and support children to stay smokefree.ⁱⁱ There is very high public support in Albert-Eden for Smokefree public places.ⁱⁱⁱ

However public awareness of places that went smokefree in 2013 is low (parks, playgrounds, sports fields, transport hubs and council buildings) (see Appendix) so it is important that local boards continue to promote these places as smokefree. Next year sports clubs, beaches, town centres, civic squares, plazas and outdoor dining are going smokefree^{iv} so the local board can assist with promoting them as smokefree.

Alongside the commitment in your draft plan Cancer Society recommends Albert-Eden takes both local and regional action to strengthen smokefree.

Local Action

- 1. Ensure all events funded or partially funded by the Local Board are required to be smokefree.**
CSAN recommend that a requirement of receiving Local Board funding is for events to be declared and publicised as smokefree. CSAN also recommends including the following accountability measure in your Local Board Grants Programme '*any events funded or partially funded by the board are to be smokefree*'. Events play an important role in promoting a positive smokefree message and create healthier environments to support children's and whanau wellbeing.
- 2. Include smokefree clauses in all new and renewed community leases and consider variations to existing leases with three or more years remaining for example sports clubs.**

Including smokefree clauses is an important requirement for community leases. Here is an example of the Smokefree clause already incorporated in some Local Board leases: *'Auckland Council has adopted a Smoke-Free Policy to apply on Council land, which Policy the lessee is obliged to abide by during the Term. The Lessee will use its best endeavours to ensure its members, employees, invitees, contractors and agents abide by the Policy.'*

3. Allocate budget for implementation including signage and communication with your local community.

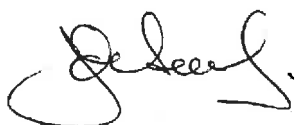
A dedicated budget for signage and local communications beyond Phase one smokefree areas will make a big difference in raising community awareness around new Smokefree public places and compliance with Smokefree Policy.

Regional Action

4. Advocate to the Governing Body to introduce region wide mechanisms that ensure an effective Smokefree Policy, including a targeted Smokefree bylaw, as well as clauses requiring smokefree outdoor environments in relevant Council licenses, leases, funding agreements and event plans.

Cancer Society acknowledges your commitment in this area and encourages you to use all mechanisms available to ensure all public places and events are Smokefree in your area. We would like to give an oral submission.

Yours Sincerely,



John Loof
Chief Executive Cancer Society Auckland Northland

Appendix**Summary of Findings from the Smokefree Policy Review August 2016:^v**

- the policy was not on track to achieve policy objectives or Auckland's Smokefree 2025 goals particularly for Maori and Pacific peoples
- the policy had not been implemented effectively or efficiently
- insufficient budget had been dedicated to actively promoting and implementing the policy across the region resulting in low effectiveness
- high public confusion and very low community awareness about smokefree public places with awareness decreasing 20% since 2014
- the majority of people surveyed thought Council was not doing enough to let people know about smokefree outdoor places/events (56% compared to 44% in 2014)

As a result of the review, the Regional Strategy and Policy Committee agreed in August 2016 to:^{vi}

- i) The revision of the existing smokefree policy, strengthening our existing policy framework and intent to 2025, with a more targeted demographic approach and a greater emphasis on more effective implementation. This is to include investigation of whether council contracts, leases, licences, events and grants stipulate a smokefree requirement.
- ii) The investigation of a smokefree bylaw - commence the statutory process for investigating a draft smokefree bylaw to complement the Council's Smokefree Policy
- iii) And as part of this work Auckland Council will develop an action plan to target those most in need, including Māori, Pasifika and vulnerable populations.

While Council officers have been asked to progress the above recommendations, both regional and local action is needed to achieve Auckland's Smokefree 2025 goals, which is only 8 years away. It is very timely to act now given your Local Board is developing your priorities and budgets for the next 3 years. The Smokefree Policy is particularly relevant to Local Boards given the delegated authority you have with regards to implementation.

References

ⁱ Statistics New Zealand NZ social Indicators Retrieved on 9.3.2017 from: http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/nz-social-indicators/Home/Health/tobacco-smoking.aspx

ⁱⁱ 1. Klein EG, Bernat DH, Forster JL. Young adult perceptions of smoking in outdoor park areas. *Health Place*. 2012;18:1042-5.

2. Zablocki RW, Edland SD, Myers MG, Strong DR, Hofstetter CR, Al-Delaimy WK. Smoking ban policies and their influence on smoking behaviors among current California smokers: A population-based study. *Prev Med*. 2014;59:73-8.

3. Chaiton M, Diemert L, Zhang B, Kennedy RD, Cohen JE, Bondy SJ, et al. Exposure to smoking on patios and quitting: A population representative longitudinal cohort study. *Tob Control*. 2016;25:83-8.

ⁱⁱⁱ Wyllie & Associates (2013). Public support for tobacco control policies in the Auckland Council region. Auckland, New Zealand: Cancer Society Auckland. Infographics <https://auckland-northland.cancernz.org.nz/en/reducing-cancer-risk-2/what-we-are-doing/smokefree-auckland/high-public-support-for-smokefree-auckland/>

^{iv} Auckland Council (2013). Smoke-free Policy. Available at <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspoliciesprojects/councilpolicies/Documents/smokefreepolicy2013.pdf>

^v Wyllie & Associates. (2016). Auckland smokefree outdoor public places survey. Report prepared for Auckland Council May 2016

^{vi} Auckland Council Regional Strategy and Policy Committee meeting 4.8.16 resolution number: REG/2016/67