

## Media Release

23 September 2013

### **GPNZ Endorses Fact Sheet Supporting Fluoridation of the Water Supply**

General Practice NZ (“GPNZ”) joins the Paediatric Society of New Zealand in endorsing the fact sheet developed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians supporting fluoridation of the water supply.

“Water fluoridation is an important public health measure to protect the dental health of our community” said GPNZ’s Chair Ms Shelley Frost. This is supported by local evidence from the **NZ Oral Health Survey 2009** showing that on average New Zealand children have 40% less decay (ie, decayed, missing or filled teeth) in areas with fluoridation compared to areas without it.

A large body of robust scientific literature supports water fluoridation. “Water fluoridation is very safe” said Ms Frost. The Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor, Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, in his article *What is in the Water* commented “there is no health risk from fluoride in the water”.

The fact sheet is available on the RACP website: <http://www.racp.edu.au/page/paed-policy>

What is in the Water can be accessed at the attached link: <http://www.pmcsa.org.nz/blog/what-is-in-the-water/>

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