

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa to Pae Ora Legislation Committee on the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill

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Submission

Living Streets Aotearoa supports the intention of this Bill to improve health for all New Zealanders.

We want to ensure that all activity that promotes the health of New Zealanders is covered in this Bill, including support for the healthy act of walking as a climate neutral activity, good for personal and public health and contributing to community.

Our comments are to seek clarification of the meaning of some clauses in the Bill.

3 Purpose of this Act

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the public funding and provision of services in order to—

- (a) protect, promote, and improve the health of all New Zealanders; and
- (b) achieve equity by reducing health disparities among New Zealand's population groups, in particular for Māori; and
- (c) build towards pae ora (healthy futures) for all New Zealanders.

4 Interpretation

There is no definition of health. Rather health is used throughout the Bill in a more negative sense, as something people need rather than already have and require support for or a service to improve.

14 Function of Health NZ

Does “evaluate the delivery and performance” of the health system in clauses m and n include monitoring the performance of the health system with data collection? It should. Clause 19 seems to do this for the Māori Health Authority. Similarly the Health Quality and Safety Commission monitors quality and safety of services, although it is not clear what quality metrics are used and whether they refer to health outcomes at a population and personal level or quality of service.

Health Strategies

37 NZ Health Strategy

Does people’s health and wellbeing include both personal and public health? Public health measures as well as green prescriptions are where we see the biggest support for healthy activity like walking coming from.

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand’s national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking-friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is “More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places”. Living Streets Aotearoa Wellington is the local branch.

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners, including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land-use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz