

14 July 2012



Re: WCC strategies regarding Government commitment to Smokefree Aotearoa 2025

Iona Panett
Portfolio Leader: Built Environment
Wellington City Council
P.O. Box 2199
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Dear Iona

I am writing on behalf of the Architectural Centre, a group which represents both professional and non-professionals interested in architecture and design, and in the promotion of good design in Wellington.

As a group interested in the built environment, the Architectural Centre would like to commend the WCC for its stance on Wellington smokefree environments, particularly the recent (June 2012) decision to ban smoking in Wellington city's 43 sports parks, 104 playgrounds, and 7 skate parks.

The Architectural Centre supports such restrictions because we acknowledge: the role the built environment has in supporting the health of the people using it, the role of smoking in negatively affecting the health of smoking and non-smoking Wellingtonians, and the need to ensure that public spaces are accessible to, and supportive of, all citizens. We consider such initiatives to also support aims for pedestrian- and cycle-friendly cities, ideas well-documented in research underlying good urban design.

Within this context we would like to know what the other WCC proposals are to support central government's commitment to Smokefree Aotearoa 2025. What timeframe is the council working towards for making specific public areas smokefree (e.g. the Golden Mile, bus stops, footpaths)? Equally what support is the council providing to smokers to help them through these changes to their environment?

We understand this is a complex issue, but appreciate that the council will need to take a long-term strategic view in order to ensure the success of what is a significant change to the city and to New Zealand.

Yours faithfully

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cc. Hon. Tariana Turia, Associate Minister of Health

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