

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 26 October 2021

Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill

Proposed amendment to SOP No 38

Dr Shane Reti, in Committee, to move the following amendment:

Clause 4A

In *clause 4A*, after new section 116E(2)(b), insert:

- (c) the views of local health authorities legislated to represent regional health interests where the local authority supply is situated.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper adds a consideration required of the Director-General of Health before making a direction to add or not add fluoride to drinking water, requiring the Director-General to consider the views of local health authorities where those authorities are legislated to represent the health interests of that region.

The Minister's SOP No 38 shifts decision-making power from the local district health board, where the bill originally placed it, to the Director-General of Health. In doing so, the need for input from local health authorities like district health boards has not been recognised.

The additional requirement is framed to future-proof and be indifferent regarding the structure of the local health authorities, due to the Government's proposal to end the district health board system.