Supporting cycling and walking in your city:

A toolkit for submissions to Local Government Annual Plans

This toolkit aims to encourage individuals and agencies from the health sector to support cycling and walking in their city via submissions to Local Government Annual Plans.

City and Regional Councils have a substantial role in developing policy, programmes and infrastructure to support cycling and walking in their communities. One avenue for the health sector to support this is via submissions to Annual Plans and Long Term Council Community Planning (LTCCP) that highlight the potential gains in community health and well-being that could be enjoyed.

The toolkit provides:
- information about making submissions to annual plans
- general advice about submission content
- key references from the research evidence supporting the promotion of cycling and walking for good health.

1. Annual Plans and LTCCPs

Each year City and Regional Councils develop draft Annual Plans or LTCCPs that describe upcoming spending and initiatives in their area. The community is then invited to comment and provide input. In some cases, a written submission is an important contribution, appearing in person gives an additional submission is in written form, with the option to speak in support of it at a later date. While the written submission is an important contribution, appearing in person gives an additional opportunity to reinforce messages and show your organisation’s support.

2. Submission content

What to communicate in your submission:
- The extent and urgency of the issue of the physical activity and health:
  - An estimated 2100 deaths each year in NZ are due to physical inactivity. Health benefits from physical activity include reductions in cardiovascular disease, some cancers, diabetes, musculoskeletal problems, obesity and poor mental health.

3. What you are asking for:
- The level of detail that you go into depends on your organisation and the issues you are addressing:
  - A general approach may include offering your support for current cycling and walking initiatives or asking for greater commitment to encouraging cycling and walking in your city. In the latter case this may be asking for increased funding for infrastructure, promotion programmes or staff-time.
  - A more specific approach may address a particular hot topic in your city, for example, a problematic bridge or intersection, or the need to complete a planned cycling network or walking trail. In this case it may be useful to speak to local cycling and walking advocates as they may be aware of progress (or lack of progress) on specific issues and can link you in with others who may be making similar submissions. Local cycle and walking advocates can be found on the websites of the Cycling Advocates Network (www.cyclonz.org.nz) and Living Streets Aotearoa (www.livingstreets.org.nz), as well as a range of resources and up-to-date information. A copy of this resource has been sent to all local advocates to let them know that local health sector people may be in contact.
  - Finally, if you wish to include some of the broader arguments for promotion of cycling and walking that related to health, economic, environmental and community wellbeing, these are well summarised elsewhere.

Dr Rose Richards
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Cancer Society Social and Behavioural Research in Cancer Unit
Department of Preventive & Social Medicine
Dunedin Medical School
University of Otago
Tel +64 03 479 7209
Email: rose.richards@otago.ac.nz

3. References


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