

10 May 2021

Committee Secretariat
Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Submitted online

Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) Bill

Dear Committee Members

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to submit on the above Bill. The NZMA is New Zealand's largest medical organisation, with about 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders. Our submission has been informed by feedback from our Board, members and Advisory Councils.

The NZMA is fully supportive of this Bill which requires the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to recommend the setting of mandatory regulation under section 29 of the Fair Trading Act 1986 prescribing a product safety standard for sunscreen products. We note that the Minister must make the recommendation for mandatory regulation as soon as practicable after the Act passes, but no later than 6 months after commencement, after which time the Act will be repealed.

Despite currently having a shared sunscreen standard with Australia that prescribes testing methods and labelling requirements for sunscreen products, the approach to its application taken by the two countries diverges. While the standard is mandatory in Australia, meaning a product cannot go onto a shelf without meeting the standard, compliance is voluntary in New Zealand.

In a country with one of the highest rates of skin cancer and melanoma in the world, it is unacceptable that sunscreen products are not subject to mandatory regulation in New Zealand. In 2020, seven of 12 sunscreens tested by Consumer New Zealand failed to meet their SPF label claim while three of the seven failed the requirements for broad-spectrum protection.¹ In 2019, only 11 of 20 sunscreens tested met their SPF label claim, and three failed the requirements for broad spectrum protection. Consumers in New Zealand must be able to have confidence in SPF

¹ <https://www.consumer.org.nz/articles/sunscreens/full-test-results>

claims made by sunscreen manufacturers. This Bill should contribute towards helping to achieve this.

We hope our feedback is helpful and look forward to the passage of this legislation. We are not seeking the opportunity for an oral presentation to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Baddock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K" and a trailing flourish.

Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair