



# THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Secretariat: Denise Tringham  
P O Box 22 234  
Wellington 6441  
Tel: (04) 938 4827  
Fax: (04) 976 4827  
Email: denise@paediatrics.org.nz  
Website: www.paediatrics.org.nz

31 October, 2011

## PSNZ submission on the Auckland Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Auckland Plan.

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand strongly endorses the intention to support investment in children and young people and to *“Dramatically accelerate the prospects of Auckland’s children and young people”*. The Paediatric Society of New Zealand would be very happy to discuss this submission with the Auckland Council and to engage in ongoing dialogue on how the needs of children and young people in the Auckland region may best be met. We hope that this visionary plan could act as a template for other local authorities throughout New Zealand.

### Reducing Inequality

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand supports a focus on reducing inequality and agrees this will be of benefit for all Aucklanders. We note that social determinants, especially poverty provide a strong indicator for child and youth ill health *“High rates of child poverty are a cause for concern, as low family income has been associated with a range of negative outcomes including low birth weight, infant mortality, poorer mental health and cognitive development, and hospital admissions from a variety of causes” (Craig 2011)*.

### Sustainability, transport and road safety

We also strongly endorse the intention to develop Auckland as a green and sustainable city with the well being of children and young people being kept central to all Planning and Council service delivery.

Children are road and public transport users as pedestrians, passengers and cyclists. We note the emphasis on the development of public transport systems. On p28 para105 of the Plan there is reference to *“Increasing the transport options available to Aucklanders will help to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce carbon emissions, improve the safety of pedestrians and of cyclists”* however there is only one specific statement on improving road safety on p174 in relation to State Highway 1 between Puhoi and Wellsford. Similarly while there is an aspirational goal to reduce the number of serious injury “crashes” it is unclear whether this includes pedestrian, passenger or cyclist injury.

We would like to see a much stronger approach to the safety of pedestrians, and especially for children and youth who are particularly vulnerable. The need to develop pedestrian access between open spaces in the city centre is highlighted but there appears to be little attention to ensuring safe pedestrian access in suburban areas where most children and young people live, attend school and access recreation. There is a brief mention of this on p169 of the draft plan e.g. *para 674 ... providing travel demand management programmes (e.g school travel plans, parking management) and para 676 ... Transport has a major impact on the quality of our urban and rural places, and especially on pedestrians and cyclists who share space with vehicles on our roads. At times, in a town centre for example, road space has a critically important place function in addition to its vehicle moving function. In such cases, pedestrians will be considered first.*

While this is reassuring we would like to see a much stronger safety emphasis, with targets included. Changes to existing roading may create challenges, there needs to be a significant increase in provision of safe pedestrian crossings and refuges that enable pedestrians to safely access schools, parks and other public amenities.

Where new developments are planned, the educational facilities serving those communities should be sited so that they are safely accessible on foot and by cycle and avoid the need to cross major arterial routes.

People are much less likely to use public transport if they have to cross a busy road or major highway to reach it.

### **Health**

We are delighted that the Auckland Council has included health improvement targets in its planning and acknowledges the importance of social determinants in the health of all, but particularly of children who are the most vulnerable and dependant of our citizens.

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand concurs with the comments made by Dr Johan Morreau, New Zealand President of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in his letter of 18 October 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosemary Marks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rosemary Marks  
**President**

### Reference:

Craig, E. (2011). The Children's Social Health Monitor 2011 Update Paediatric Society of New Zealand, Population Child Health Special Interest Group of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, New Zealand Child and Youth Epidemiology Service et al. Wellington <http://www.nzchildren.co.nz/>