



# THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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## **PSNZ Submission Re Extension by 4 Months of Mandatory Fortification of Bread with Folic Acid**

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) strongly supports mandatory fortification of bread with folic acid.

PSNZ notes that the timetabled steps over the last two years for assessment of the voluntary fortification regime through data collection and commissioned research did not allow for an adequate period of further public consultation and industry planning between publication of the research, and the date for mandatory fortification to commence (May 2012). Therefore, while the current request to delay for a further four months could have been predicted and avoided, PSNZ acknowledges the importance of ensuring that proper consultation takes place.

Public consultation and industry preparedness are important in the establishment of a well planned and successfully run implementation programme of mandatory fortification. Greatest reduction in pregnancies with a fetus affected by a neural tube defect will be achieved by a well-run and well-monitored mandatory programme.

On this basis PSNZ supports a four-month extension.

Dr Andrew Marshall  
On behalf of The Paediatric Society of New Zealand