

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE JOINT WORK PLAN

supporting a Health in All Policies
approach in Canterbury

Working together to improve wellbeing

We are increasingly facing complex and interconnected social, economic and environmental challenges that impact our health and wellbeing. Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative approach that benefits multiple sectors. All sectors are essential for creating healthy societies.

Te Whatu Ora - Waitaha (formerly the Canterbury District Health Board), Environment Canterbury (ECan) and Christchurch City Council (CCC) have successfully worked together for many years. The partner organisations formally agreed to work together in 2012 (ECan) and 2014 (CCC), and the Joint Work Plan was established, creating a framework for a more coordinated and effective approach to tackling issues that affect health.

Now into its 10th year, the JWP captures the commitment of the three organisations to work together to improve community health and wellbeing, as well as the health of the environment in Ōtautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury.

Progress on the six key JWP focus areas is tracked through a custom online portal. The portal enables staff to collaborate and update actions, enhancing transparency and communication between the organisations.

The JWP has strengthened relationships across the partner organisations, and a more collaborative approach has been established in all shared areas of work. Furthermore, the JWP has led to more aligned public messaging and increased staff knowledge and capabilities in a Health in All Policies approach.

Shared learning and the successful experience of collaborating through the JWP will support us moving forward, as we continue to work together towards improving the wellbeing of our places and communities.

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

Christchurch
City Council

Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council
Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha

Areas of Collaboration:

The JWP enables planning and monitoring of collaborative work across six key focus areas:

1. Ensuring safe and sustainable water supply and waterways
2. Promoting healthy environments
3. Supporting healthier homes
4. Strengthening communities
5. Improving connectivity and accessibility
6. Building capacity through collaboration

Within these areas, the three partners collaborate on actions across:

- Air quality
- Drinking and recreational water
- Contaminated land and waste
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Emergency management responses

CCC and Te Mana Ora also collaborate on:

- Healthy housing
- Healthy food environments
- Smokefree/ Vapefree
- Alcohol harm
- Accessibility and inclusion

Joint Success: The Fresh Air Project

The Fresh Air Project was created in Ōtautahi through a partnership between CCC, the Cancer Society, and the then Canterbury District Health Board (now Te Whatu Ora) to support hospitality venues in Ōtautahi and Selwyn to go smokefree and vape-free in their outdoor dining areas. The Fresh Air Project aims to create healthier environments for customers and staff by reducing secondhand smoke, reduce visibility of smoking and support Smokefree 2025.

In 2015, the project began with a survey of 137 hospitality venues by Te Whatu Ora and Cancer Society to understand their attitudes towards smoking and smokefree policies, revealing significant interest in exploring smokefree outdoor dining options.

A voluntary smokefree outdoor dining pilot was launched in 2016 by the Cancer Society and Te Whatu Ora, consisting of 20 hospitality venues in Ōtautahi and Selwyn. The reasons for introducing smokefree outdoor dining areas included improving customer and staff experience, as well as reducing secondhand smoke drift. The project was supported with advice, resources, and marketing efforts by CCC, and city councillors became project advocates.

Starting in Ōtautahi, the Fresh Air Project has expanded to six regions across NZ

The Fresh Air Project's success depended on the strong partnership built with businesses, who were concerned about changes that could affect their reputation, popularity, and profit. Participating venues reported numerous benefits of smokefree outdoor dining areas. These included positive feedback from customers, fresher air, and a reduction in smoking-related litter. A vast majority (94.5%) of customers who gave feedback supported the initiative.

The pilot was a success, with 18 venues opting to remain smokefree after the trial period. The collaboration between partners was also a victory, paving the way for more participating venues across Ōtautahi and Waitaha. The Fresh Air Project has since expanded and has been implemented in other regions like Nelson, Whangarei, Auckland, Otago and Southland.

CCC, the Cancer Society and Te Whatu Ora continue to work collaboratively to advance smokefree and vape-free policies in Ōtautahi and Canterbury.



Joint Success: Assessing the Impacts of the Air Plan Review through Health Impact Assessment

In 2014, ECan conducted a review of its Air Plan to evaluate progress towards meeting the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality. This review proposed to phase out old wood burners as they were responsible for 80% of emissions in Ōtautahi. To assess the health implications of the draft plan, staff from Te Whatu Ora and ECan carried out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

An HIA is a formal process that systematically assesses the impacts of decisions made in other sectors on population health and wellbeing. It is most effective when conducted collaboratively, with government agencies, organisations, and stakeholders working together to analyse a proposed policy or project from a determinants of health perspective and identify ways to minimise or mitigate any negative health impacts.

The HIA of the proposed Air Plan looked at the potential health impacts of any additional requirements for households to upgrade wood-burning appliances or switch to other forms of heating.

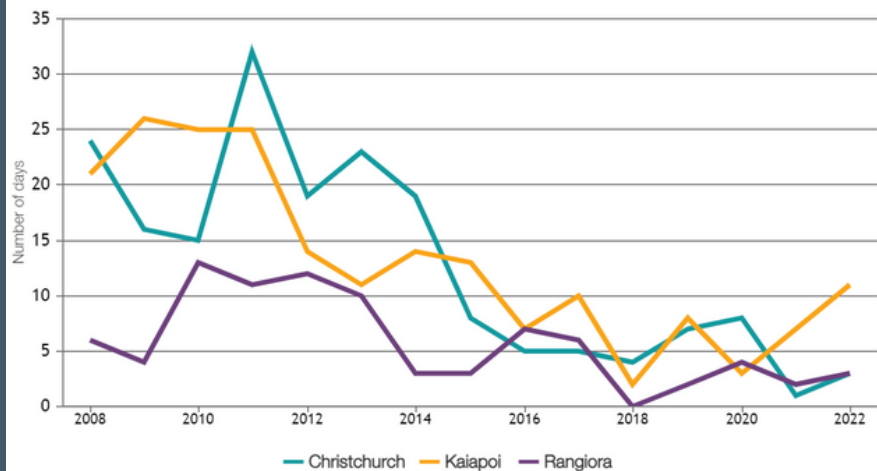
The HIA outlined the potential health and equity impacts of the proposed changes in the Air Plan. The process involved analysing household survey data to identify the population using wood burners, the level of home insulation, and the level of fuel poverty in Ōtautahi. Additional work included a literature review of the health impacts associated with cold and unhealthy homes, as well as a report on the costs of installing and operating different heating options.

The recommendations from the HIA resulted in targeted heating and insulation subsidies, reducing financial barriers to improving home heating. ECan also launched awareness campaigns and provided community education on the links between air quality, home heating, and health. The HIA process identified unintended consequences of the Air Plan, allowing ECan to collaborate with other agencies to transition to cleaner and healthier home heating solutions, with equity being a key consideration throughout the process.

ECan and Te Whatu Ora remain committed to working together to improve air quality and promote better health and equity outcomes for communities.

Regional air quality (PM10) has improved dramatically in the last decade

Figure shows the number of PM10 exceedances per year for Christchurch City, Kaiapoi, and Rangiora airsheds, 2008–2022



Together we have achieved so much

Here are a few more great examples of joint work over the last decade. Let's continue to work together to support the health of our communities and the environment.



Implementing Smokefree Social Housing



In 2014, CCC adopted a policy that made it mandatory for new and refurbished social housing buildings to be smoke-free indoors. CCC and CDHB partnered to create a useful toolkit that assisted in the implementation of the policy, resulting in more social housing becoming smoke-free.



Helping Homeowners to Build Back Smarter



In 2016, the CDHB and CCC joined forces to create a no-cost service for homeowners that offered insights on how to make their homes more comfortable, healthier, and cost-effective. Approximately 7000 homeowners have received Build Back Smarter Advice. The service received outstanding feedback from users.



Joining against alcohol-related harm



A three-way partnership between CCC, NZ Police and Health, the Christchurch Alcohol Action Plan (CAAP) builds on the strong partnerships and collaborative mahi to reduce alcohol harm in the city. Launched in 2017, the CAAP has fostered a shared vision, enabling partner organisations and the community to collaborate and address alcohol-related harm throughout Ōtautahi.



Encouraging Healthier Commutes



The success of Te Whatu Ora Waitaha's Healthy Commute programme relies heavily on collaboration. CCC provides personalised journey planning while ECan offers incentives for using public transport. The programme's objective is to enable staff to adopt new, eco-friendly commuting habits such as walking, cycling, scooting, or taking the bus – all of which promote good health for people and the planet.



Exploring the Health Impacts of Climate Change



Evolving from conversations on how to bring a climate change lens to the JWP, Te Mana Ora began work with ECan and CCC to better understand the health impacts of climate change in Waitaha Canterbury. Begun in 2022, the first stage of the project resulted in a comprehensive report that summarises the key climate change hazards in the region, the health and wellbeing effects, and the most impacted population groups. The report emphasises the importance of collective and integrated planning for climate change responses among key organisations and communities to enhance resilience and improve outcomes.

Partnership key: Health **H** CCC **C** ECan **E** Other **O**