

# New Zealand



## Summary of Findings

### 1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

No instances were identified of the government accepting offers of assistance from the tobacco industry (TI), endorsing their policies, or of industry representatives attending policy meetings. However, there were many instances of industry representatives or their affiliates participating in public consultation on tobacco regulation and lobbying against proposed tobacco control laws.

### 2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

The government did not endorse, support, or form partnerships with TI-related CSR activities.

### 3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

The government implements the law despite requests from the TI to meet and discuss their concerns or be given an extension to agreed timeframes.

### 4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

There was no evidence that top-level government officials attended social functions organised by the TI, or that the government accepted assistance from the industry for their tobacco-control activities. The government has not signed up to the WHO FCTC Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

### 5. TRANSPARENCY

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and New Zealand Customs Service Te Mana Ārai O Aotearoa (NZCS) record meetings with the representatives from the TI. Meetings with other government departments, if they occurred, are not reported nor documented.

The government does not regulate the work of political lobbyists so it can be challenging to expose TI links to,

and funding of, allied groups. Recent investigations into the unregulated role lobbyists have in New Zealand policymaking have led to Prime Minister Chris Hipkins introducing measures to address these perceived freedoms.

### 6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no legislation specifically prohibiting the TI from donating to political parties, candidates, campaigns and/or lobbyists, although contributors and donations over a certain amount must be declared.

No retired or current government officials were identified as holding positions in the tobacco business, although a current Member of Parliament used to work for the TI.

### 7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The MOH and NZCS make public meetings with the TI on their websites, although minutes and/or outcomes are not published.

Interaction between public officials, MPs and the TI is governed by general conflict of interest guidelines only. No comprehensive set of rules exists for public officials on guiding their interaction with the TI. Nor is there a specific policy that prohibits contributions from the TI, although such interactions are governed by broader anti-corruption regulation.

The MOH publishes on its website annual tobacco returns filed by tobacco manufacturers and importers as industry revenues are required to be publicly declared by NZ company law. In general, the government does not ensure that the public has access to a wide range of information on TI activities. The government does not require information from the industry regarding expenditure on marketing, lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions, or other activities. Nor does the government have a comprehensive or systematic strategy for raising awareness within government departments on policies relating to WHO FCTC Article 5.3.