



AK Have Your Say



Proposed improvements to council's health and hygiene bylaw and control

For both personal and cultural reasons, Aucklanders use a variety of services that can have health and safety risks. These services can range from beauty services and cultural practices to public swimming pools.

These services can pierce, burn, or break the skin, or spread infections. Most harms are minor, but some have higher risks. For example:

- services that pierce the skin can spread blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B and C
- laser treatments can cause eye damage and burns
- swimming pools can transfer waterborne illnesses, such as gastrointestinal infection.

The existing rules are set in the [Health and Hygiene Bylaw 2013 \(Bylaw\)](#) and [Health and Hygiene Code of Practice 2013 \(Control\)](#).

These rules are part of a wider framework of agencies and legislation about public health and safety, including:

- The [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#) for worker and workplace health and safety.
- The [Health and Disability Commissioner](#) for New Zealanders who use health and disability services
- The [Environmental Protection Authority](#) which sets standards for tattoo ink.

Proposal to improve council's approach

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified improvements. Key improvements proposed in comparison to the existing Bylaw and Control include to:

- remove the licence requirement for services with low to medium impact harms, for example, 'fat-freezing', hair removal, manicures and pedicures
- remove specific rules for exfoliation, manicures and pedicures, and massage
- exempt practitioners registered with the Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand
- add new rules for scarification
- add the power for council to approve alternative practices to Control rules
- update general standards for premises and services that break or pierce the skin
- require all providers to be suitably qualified
- enable council to require a water treatment plan for a public swimming pool
- update rules to reflect current practice and technical advice that providers must follow
- make the Bylaw and Control easier to read and understand.

We want to know what you think

From **4 May 2026** through to **7 June 2026**, we want you to tell us what you think about the proposal to improve our Bylaw and Control about services with health or safety risks in Auckland.

Visit akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ for more information and to find out how to give your feedback in writing, in-person or by phone. Free internet access is available at our libraries