

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**03 August 2007**

### **Little support for banning wood fired home heating**

Wood-fired home heating may have been identified as one of the primary causes of air pollution, but New Zealanders are reluctant to see it banned.

A Research New Zealand poll has found that more than three-quarters of New Zealanders are opposed to a ban on wood-fired home heating.

Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said that, 77% of those polled were opposed to a ban on wood-fired heating, with only 20% in favour.

A four-year, \$1 million report, *Health and Pollution in New Zealand*, released in July found that cities and towns with a high use of wood burners as having among the worst air pollution levels.

Mr Kalafatelis said that the Research New Zealand poll was taken between July 18 and 25, which was after the report was released.

“While overall the poll found that there was a high level of opposition to banning wood-fired home heating, there was significantly more opposition to banning wood fires in rural areas (87%) than in urban areas (75%).

“Also older people (80% of those aged 40+) were more likely to oppose banning wood fires than younger people (68% of 30 to 39 year olds),” Mr Kalafatelis said.

“The poll found that opposition to a ban on wood fire heating was consistent across most other demographic variables, including gender, income and the city/town respondents lived in,” Mr Kalafatelis said.

more ...

Respondents were asked: ***Do you support a total nationwide ban on wood-fired home heating?***

**Table 1: Results by gender**

	Base =	Total 501 %	Male 247 %	Female 254 %
Yes		20	19	21
No		77	79	76
Don't know		2	2	3
Refused		0	0	0
Total		100	100	100

*Total may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

**Table 2: Results by age**

	Base =	Total 501 %	15 to 29 88 %	30 to 39 100 %	40 to 49 83 %	50 to 59 85 %	60+ 145 %
Yes		20	27	27	16	14	14
No		77	70	68	82	85	84
Don't know		2	2	5	1	1	2
Refused		0	0	0	1	0	0
Total		100	100	100	100	100	100

*Total may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

**Table 3: Results by income**

	Base =	Total 501 %	Under \$40,000 174 %	40,000 - \$69,999 127 %	\$70,000 plus 158 %
Yes		20	24	17	19
No		77	72	80	80
Don't know		2	3	3	1
Refused		0	1	0	0
Total		100	100	100	100

*Total may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

**Table 4: Results by rural area/town/city**

	Base =	Total 501 %	Rural area (under 1,000 population) 71 %	A small town (1,000-9,999 population) 76 %	A medium- sized town (10,000-29,999 population) 61 %	A large town or city (30,000 or more population) 291 %
Yes		20	11	20	22	22
No		77	87	77	75	75
Don't know		2	2	2	3	2
Refused		0	0	1	0	0
Total		100	100	100	100	100

*Total may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

*Note: n=2 respondents were unable to describe the type of area they lived in. Their results are not displayed on this table.*

more ...

**Table 5: Results by region**

Base =	Total	Auckland	Wellington	Canterbury	Other
	501	127	60	66	248
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	20	22	25	25	17
No	77	77	69	75	80
Don't know	2	1	4	0	3
Refused	0	0	2	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

*Total may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

This Research New Zealand poll of 501 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 18 to 25 July 2007. The margin of error is +/- 4.6% (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

**Research New Zealand is an independent, New Zealand-owned research organisation undertaking social and business research.**

**Discover truth. Inspire action.**

**[www.researchnz.com](http://www.researchnz.com)**

**Ends**

*Contact: Emanuel Kalafatelis, 027 500 4401*