

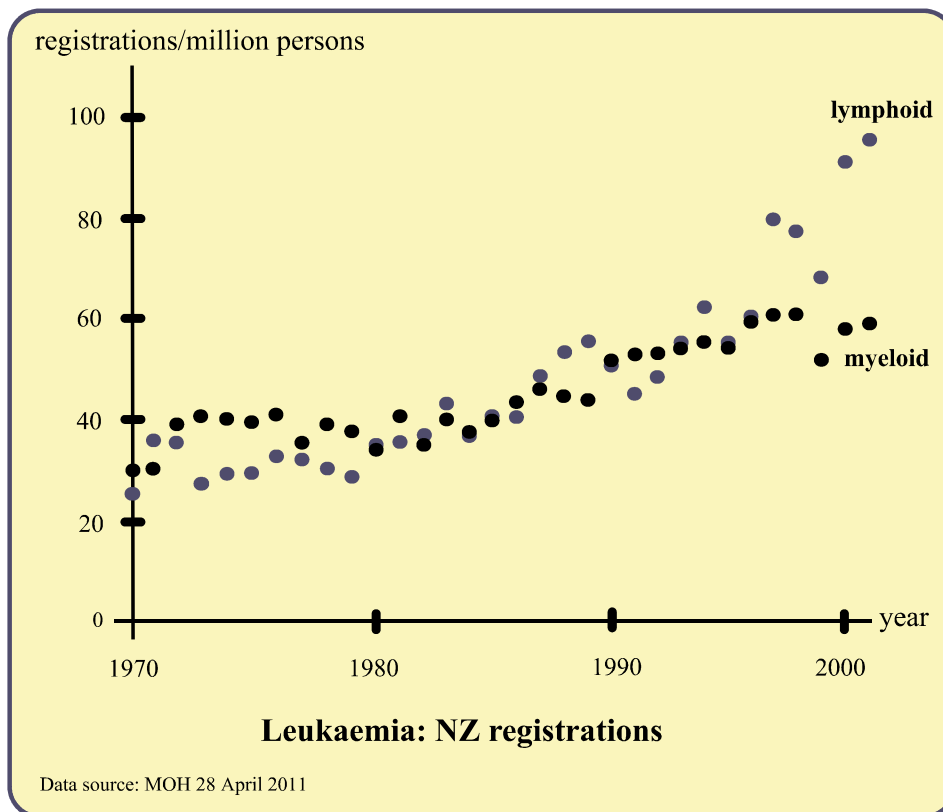
Addenda

My presentation at the Policy and Finance meeting in March excluded blood disorders. While I have previously focused on solid tumours, there is debate as to whether or not blood disorders should be included in the epidemiology of cancers.

Blood disorders, along with not being solid tumours, have a later start date for increased incidence. Overseas research indicates that the increase in registrations began in the 1970's rather than the earlier date of the 1950's for cancers in general.

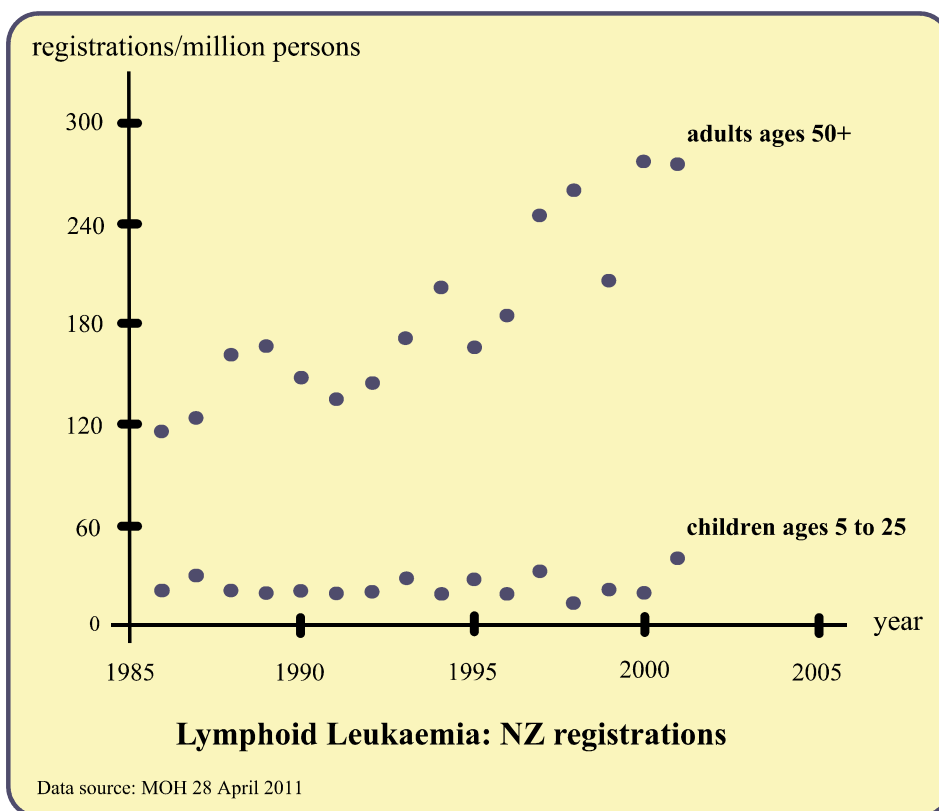
Recent experience by the armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq has reaffirmed a clear link between the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) produced by the burning of plastics and the incidence blood disorders. It has also shown that peak risk from POPs is maintained after 12 months exposure.

In New Zealand, data prior to the early 1970's is not yet available. However, data from 1970 onward does shed some light on the dramatic increase in blood disorders, in particular the rapid increase in both Myeloid and Lymphoid Leukaemia:



The increasing incidence of these disorders is clear. Myeloid Leukaemia has doubled while Lymphoid Leukaemia has increased four fold in 30 years.

In more detail, the Lymphoid line shows a clear distinction between age groups. The generally accepted view is that Leukaemia mostly affects the 5-25 year age group with a second, less pronounced, occurrence in the 50+ age group. The evidence is otherwise, as the following graph shows with a snapshot from 1986 to 2001:



Notwithstanding the possibility of an errant vaccine side effect, which is not Council’s problem, there is still ample evidence of an increase in the 50+ age group which is well beyond that which is in any way acceptable.

The Clean Air Act prohibits the burning of plastic waste by local councils, schools and so on. This sets a clear precedent and a clear standard and in the light of the preceding graphs there is a long overdue need to apply the same standard to ratepayers and residents.

Unfortunately, education on the hazards of burning plastics is wasted effort. Education cannot overcome obsessive compulsive behaviours of which the burning of rubbish is one. I suggest that the burning of domestic waste, either in the open or in a fireplace or logburner, be prohibited by bylaw and attract a penalty in the order of \$200 on evidence of discernable discharge, with \$180 of that penalty going to the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation. A third offence should attract an order for the removal of the fire or logburner if that is the method of burning.