

5G Free New Zealand Leafleting Etiquette Guide

Introduction:

This guide is based on the author's experience of having handed out leaflets at public events (ranging from protests to festivals) over the years and discovering that there are better (and worse) ways to do this.

If you follow the "do's" and "don'ts" of the list below, you will maximise your enjoyment of the event and minimise your chances of inadvertently causing offence or getting involved in a conflict.

Some useful "Do's"

Do: Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion and bring water, snacks and any necessary accessories (such as a sunhat or sunblock or portable chair etc.) with you.

Do: Hand out leaflets with a friend if possible – it's more fun!

Do: Look for a good place to hand out leaflets. It is legal to offer people leaflets when you are on the footpath or in another public place*. (For example, at a large event such as a festival like Pasifika, which is a free annual festival at Western Springs Park in Auckland, standing to the side of one of the pathways that leads into the park is a good idea.)

Do: Make sure that wherever you choose to hand out leaflets you do not cause a nuisance by blocking any path or by blocking people's access to a shop or stall or other attraction at an event.

Do: Smile and attempt to make eye contact with people as they approach you. Saying something simple such as "Hello" or "Kia ora" followed by the phrase "Has anyone offered you a leaflet?" usually works well. People will generally reply yes or no to this question and if they say no, you can offer them a leaflet. (If people have no interest in taking a leaflet they will generally avoid eye contact at this point or are likely to have avoided making eye contact right from the moment they saw you.)

Do: Be sensitive to people's body language and if they look like they have no interest in taking a leaflet, don't offer them one.

Do: Give a leaflet to the parents (rather than children) when you are engaging with a family group where one or more person is open to receiving a leaflet. (Some parents may feel that their children are too young to engage with contentious issues such as those surrounding 5G.)

Do: Be aware that giving leaflets to teenage children who are still minors could cause their parents to become upset if they feel that their children are too young to become involved with any issue that is at all controversial. If you are at an event where there are groups of young people that are unaccompanied by adults, try to assess their age of the young people you meet and avoid giving leaflets to anyone who looks like they are younger than 16-18 years.

Do: Answer any questions that people may have about the text of the leaflet. (If you don't know the answer, simply say you are a volunteer and don't know everything there is to know about the issue but there is plenty of information on the website www.5G.org.nz and they may find the answer to their question there.)

Do: Pick up any leaflets that you may find on the ground that people may have discarded.

NB: *Please be aware that in the case of some events that take place on what is usually public property (such as a public park) the venue for the event may have been hired for the day by the organisers. In this case, the organisers (or a representative of the organisers) may ask you to leave the event if you are handing out leaflets. If you are asked to leave, please do so without arguing. You can hand out leaflets on the footpath instead.*

If you are attending an event at a private venue or a public facility that has been hired for the occasion, it is polite to ask for permission to hand out leaflets. (Depending upon the event and the organiser(s) failure to ask for permission to hand out leaflets at a private venue may cause offence and result in your being asked to leave the event.)

A few “don'ts”

- Don't take it personally when some people choose not to take leaflets. (A lot of people have too many things to deal with already without taking an interest in anything that is new to them, especially a topic that may provoke worry, such as 5G.)
- Don't give leaflets to children unless you have engaged with their parents and asked the parents' permission to give the leaflet to a child to hold.

- Don't assume that if someone shares your concerns about 5G that they will also share your opinion on any other topic that is controversial.
- Don't argue with anyone. If someone wants to tell you what he or she sees as the benefits of 5G, just listen to them quietly and then thank them for sharing the information – even if you think that they are mis-informed. (They are in fact, giving you valuable information about the range of opinions about 5G that exist in NZ.)

Thank you for reading this guide. I hope you have found it helpful. If you feel inspired to leaflet at a public event, you will find a variety of flyers that can be downloaded and printed at this link: <http://www.5g.org.nz/resources/>