



**FLUORIDE
FREE WA** Inc.

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Anne Porter, Vice-President

The Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837

BY EMAIL : env@parliament.wa.gov.au

13 October 2017

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Ref: Petition 023

Please find attached a written submission in support of petition 023 opposing the addition of fluoridation chemicals to the water supply in Port Hedland.

Fluoride Free WA is part of an extensive global network which includes many scientists, dentists and researchers. FFWA seeks leave to appear before the Committee and to arrange for expert witnesses to explain or elaborate on the matters raised in this submission.

Yours Sincerely

Anne Porter

Submission re petition no 023 – OPPOSE FLUORIDATION CHEMICALS TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IN PORT HEDLAND

Fluoride Free WA Inc (FFWA) makes this submission in support of petition number 023.

The evidence that fluoridation is more harmful than beneficial is overwhelming. FFWA requests the Committee to recommend that the Minister for Health, in relation to any direction to add fluorine to a public water supply serving Port and South Hedland, immediately –

- (a) revoke all directions made pursuant to s. 9 of the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*; and
- (b) issue a certificate pursuant to s. 14(b) of the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966* certifying that all directions to add fluorine to a public water supply serving Port Hedland are revoked.

FFWA advises caution in accepting at face value the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) claims of safety re water fluoridation. The NHMRC's anti-scientific conduct in deliberately ignoring well-established medical evidence is currently under scrutiny. The NHMRC has abandoned public safety and scientific integrity to protect government policy. There are calls for an urgent royal commission into the NHMRC following the release of the recent draft review of Water Fluoridation. The full report "A damning critique and analysis of the NHMRC's 2017 "Sham" review of water fluoridation and appeal for Royal Commission Inquiry: 23 Reasons why Australia needs a Royal Commission into the NHMRC's fraudulent fluoride review" can be found at this link

<http://fluoridealert.org/wp-content/uploads/fan-australia.nhmrc-fluoridation-critique-8-3-17-1.pdf>

The Chilean review (2017) "*Consequences of Fluoridation of Drinking Water on Human Health*," found that fluoridation had "*no direct or remarkable effect on dental health*" and suggested that "*the permanent and systematic ingestion of fluorides imposes health risks on the population*". It recommended that the national fluoridation program should be re-evaluated.

The Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966 (Act) is not about preventing dental caries and fails to offer protections to the people of WA

There is no indication either in the Act or in any other legislation that the purpose of water fluoridation is to prevent dental caries. The Act is not about prevention of decay but is designed merely to act as a ratchet mechanism ensuring a minimum level of exposure to fluoride through the public water supply while providing no protection against fluoride poisoning. The Act authorizes the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee (FPWSAC) to recommend that fluoride be added to water supplies regardless of adverse health effects. The FPWSAC exists for the purposes of manufacturing consent and creating the false or misleading impression that the Minister in making a direction under s. 9 of the Act, acts on the advice of suitably qualified persons.

Swallowing fluoride causes harm

Ingesting fluoride is not only ineffective at reducing tooth decay, but exposes all of the tissues of the body to a known neurotoxin (Lancet 2014) and endocrine disruptor (NRC 2006) leading to a huge range of possible adverse health effects including dental fluorosis, impaired thyroid function, reduced IQ, skeletal fluorosis, fluoride sensitivities, arthritis, bone fractures, muscle disorders, and increased infertility. More than 2260 scientific studies demonstrating possible harms can be found at this link <http://fluoridealert.org/studytracker/>.

Fluoridated water destroys brains and teeth.

Brain - Fluoride Free WA is most concerned about the impact that exposure to fluoride has on the developing brain. Over 300 studies have shown that fluoride is neurotoxic in both animal and human studies. These can be found at the link <http://fluoridealert.org/studytracker/>. The most recent scientific study demonstrates a link between higher fluoride levels in pregnant women and lower IQ's in their children. (Bashash et al 2017). The decrease was significant. Each 0.5 part per million (ppm) increases in a pregnant woman's urine fluoride levels reduced her child's IQ by 2.5 - 3 points. A child of a mother drinking 1 ppm of fluoridated water (the concentration allowed under the Act) would be expected to have a drop of 5 to 6 IQ points compared to a child of a mother drinking water with close to no fluoride in it. This prospective study was funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and led by researchers at the University Of Toronto School Of Public Health. The study substantiates numerous other studies conducted in Asia (eg Xiang et al. 2003a) which similarly found that fluoride is a developmental neurotoxin. This major study has huge consequences for WA children.

The highest doses of fluoride are going to bottle-fed babies. Bottle-fed babies and infants in fluoridated communities will be exposed to a known neurotoxin at levels 150-200 times greater than the levels found in mothers' breast milk. No warnings are given to mothers. No warnings or notifications re fluoride are given on water bills.

Additionally, fluoridation chemicals exacerbate plumbosolvency and hence increase the concentration of Lead (a known neurotoxin) in drinking water supplies (Pain 2015). Lead is also added to drinking water as a component of the industrial grade chemical used in fluoridation- Fluorosilicic Acid (ADWG table 8.4 pg 116). Fluorides also interact

with other toxins (e.g. lead) increasing their harmful impact and contributing to rising mortality rates (Kennedy et al 2016).

Fluoridation creates a supercharged neurotoxic cocktail and exposes infants and children unnecessarily to developmental neurotoxins. FFWA find it frightening to think of the accumulating loss of intelligence over multiple generations in a community with continuous water fluoridation. Tooth decay is typically repairable. But how do we recover the brain power lost?

Teeth- Dental fluorosis is the permanent disfiguration and discoloration of the teeth caused by over-exposure to fluoride. The teeth become brittle and break or stain easily. Fluorosis is an indicator of wider systemic damage. According to data released in 2010 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 41% of children aged 12-15 exhibited dental fluorosis to some degree. How many of the youth in WA suffer from dental fluorosis?

Minorities are disproportionately harmed by exposure to fluoride- fluoridation is discrimination

Many studies from the US show that exposure to fluoride through water fluoridation causes disproportionate harm to African-Americans eg. Russell (1962) noted that fluorosis was twice as prevalent among African-American children than white children. In 2005, the CDC published the results of a national survey of dental fluorosis conducted between 1999 and 2002 which shows that African-American children in the United States have significantly higher rates of dental fluorosis than either white or Hispanic children.

Similarly, data collected by Kailis and Silva (1970) from Carnarvon in the 1960's compared Aboriginal and Caucasian children aged 8-10. The prevalence of dental fluorosis was found to be significantly higher among Aboriginal than Caucasian children (81 per cent and 45 per cent respectively). This would suggest that Australian indigenous populations like the African-Americans are more susceptible to the toxic effects of fluoride.

Risk Factors for Fluoride Toxicity. Fluoridation is discrimination.

Fluoridation chemicals pose increased risk to sensitive subpopulations, such as infants, children, those with higher prevalence of health conditions that render the body more vulnerable to fluoride intake (eg diabetics, kidney patients,) people with higher intakes of fluoride and people with poor nutritional status. Clearly the Local indigenous population of Port Hedland will be more highly impacted by fluoridation. Government has a duty to protect the most vulnerable.

Fluoride intakes.

Sources of human exposure to fluoride have drastically increased since community water fluoridation began in WA in the 1960's. In addition to water, these sources now include food, air, soil, pesticides, fertilizers, dental products, pharmaceutical drugs, tea, PFA's, non-stick cookware, and an array of other consumer items used on a regular basis. Given the current levels of exposure, policies should reduce and work toward eliminating avoidable sources of fluoride, including water fluoridation, as a means to promote overall health.

Those living in hot, humid climates like that of the Pilbara will consume much more fluoridated water than 'average' thus exacerbating any adverse effects. It is not unusual for people to consume 10-12 litres of water per day in this region. From data supplied by the Health Department, public water supplies in Hedland prior to water fluoridation had a level of fluoride of 0.5ppm. At 0.5ppm many Hedland residents would have fluoride intakes at levels known to cause harm. To increase fluoride intakes by adding industrial grade Fluorosilicic acid to the water supply in the Pilbara region is grossly irresponsible. The Act authorizes the FPWSAC to recommend that fluoride be added to water supplies regardless of possible intake of water by the targeted population and fluoride from other sources.

Fluoridation is unethical

On 21st August 2012 Professor Niyi Awofeso of the School of Population Health at the University of Western Australia published a study "*Ethics of Artificial Water Fluoridation in Australia*" in the highly respected scientific journal *Public Health Ethics*. In it Professor Awofeso concluded: "*that there is insufficient ethical justification for artificial water fluoridation in Australia.*"

FFWA seeks leave to appear before the Committee and to arrange for expert witnesses to explain or elaborate on the matters raised in this submission.

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