

THE AUSTRALIAN FLUORIDATION NEWS

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IS WATER POLLUTION



GPO Box 935, Melbourne, VIC 3001
www.fluoridationnews.com

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Vol 50
No. 3

\$25 per annum posted Australia
Published Quarterly

July-December
2014

Print Post Approval
PP331.985 00013
ISSN 1445-2847

Another NHMRC 'Review', Another Gravy Train

by Geoff Pain Ph.D.

Fluoride promoters are again trying to justify the disposing of industrial fluoride wastes through the 'public kidney', whilst the damage created by the imposition of fluoridation is becoming more and more apparent.

In January 2014, I was alerted by Marilyn Haines, President of Fluoride Action Network Australia (FAN) to the fact the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) was conducting another review of fluoridation's health effects.

I immediately wrote to the NHMRC offering to serve on the committee, as Marilyn had been informed that the "Fluoride Reference Group" would have a mix of pro and anti-fluoridationists and I have been studying fluoride toxicology for decades. FAN has stated that the NHMRC has reneged on the balance commitment and is guilty of 'extreme bias' in the choice of committee members.

The NHMRC has stacked its new fluoride committee with ... members who have publicly advocated for water fluoridation

The NHMRC has stacked its new fluoride committee with at least nine members who have publicly advocated for water fluoridation, making fluoridation advocates a majority of the 15 member NHMRC committee. Included are members who are well known pro-fluoridation activists who have received significant grant funding from the NHMRC and have used their own publications to promote fluoridation.

It took four months (published online 15 Sep 2014) for the NHMRC to disclose the committee members' conflicts of interest even though the new committee commenced official meetings in June after being appointed by the CEO in May 2014.¹

Members include:

- Associate Professor Stephen Corbett who is a former non-executive Board Member, Sydney Catchment Authority and co-authored a 1993 paper on fluoride and health in NSW.

It took four months for the NHMRC to disclose the committee members' conflicts of interest

- Professor Alison Jones who is contracted to provide NSW Health with toxicology advice, including advice on fluoride. "The money from this contract goes into a University of Wollongong research fund which provides research costs and educational travel costs for staff", ... including Professor Jones who says she "assisted the NSW Chief Health Officer with education initiatives about the benefit/risk of water fluoridation in 2013, and the Ballina/Byron Bay open meeting in 2014".
- Colgate Professor Mike Morgan, Member of the Victorian Department of Health Fluoride Reference Group.
- Dr Katherine O'Donoghue who has disclosed no interests, but whose name appears in publications mentioning Colgate products.
- Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson who "has published studies and spoken publicly about fluoridated water and

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its effects on oral health” and has been “involved in the development of pamphlets and information sheets on fluorides and dental decay, co-funded by the University of Adelaide and Colgate Oral Care.” Professor Roberts-Thomson is associated with “The Dental Practice Education and Research Unit is a joint venture between The University of Adelaide and Colgate Oral Care.”

- Emeritus Professor A. John Spencer who was an “expert Witness on water fluoridation in the Land and Environment Court of NSW cases of Rous Water and Eurobodalla Shire Council.” Prof Spencer “received lecture honorariums and travel costs from the New Zealand Dental Association for continuing professional education lectures on water fluoridation”. Prof Spencer “has held a research grant from Queensland Health and multiple NHMRC grants for research regarding fluoridation and dental services. Some of these research projects have received support from Colgate Oral Care in the form of oral care gift packs for participants in oral examinations.” Prof Spencer “has been associated with the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health, Dental Practice Education Research Unit that promotes prevention in dental practice with the institutional support of Colgate Oral Care.”
- Professor Clive Wright who “provided expert testimony to the Land & Environment Court of NSW during the proceedings of Oshlack v Rous Water, Ballina Shire Council, Lismore, 2011 – 2012.”

Restrictive Guidelines

The NHMRC has also removed its guidelines for dealing with conflicts of interest from its website.

The public was allowed only one month to submit evidence, despite the planned two year review timeline.

The NHMRC have also said they will reject personal evidence of harm such as medical histories, case notes from health specialists or from members of the public.

NHMRC imposed a deliberately restrictive 500 word limit on public submissions. [This is what you do when you really don't want submissions. - Editor.] And the organisation also rejected research papers published before October 2006. Prior to that date, there have been over 900 peer-reviewed scientific studies of fluoride toxicology conducted by thousands of scientists.

Why the strange cut-off date? Perhaps to prevent inclusion of key documents such as the 2006 USA National Research Council Report: Fluoride in Drinking Water, (over 400 pages of science) and the Bassin study linking osteosarcoma in boys to water fluoridation - neither of which were given proper consideration in the 2007 NHMRC fluoride review.

NHMRC also reject any foreign language publications. [And why would that be? Because they show plenty of harm from fluoridation! - Editor.]

The NHMRC review is a misdirected use of taxpayer's money. The NHMRC has caused a major political embarrassment, exposed globally, with over 600 letters of protest received so far by the Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Health and his Shadow Minister.²

References

- 1: See NHMRC Fluoridation Reference Group Committee <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/your-health/health-effects-water-fluoridation/fluoride-reference-group>.
- 2: NHMRC media release, July 2014 <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/releases/2014/call-evidence-health-effects-water-fluoridation>

Public Betrayed by NHMRC

The NHMRC has betrayed the public on the fluoridation issue. Instead of being Australia's predominant body *promoting* national health, its restrictive guidelines shows that it is no more than a mouthpiece for vested interests, where corporate profits are the priority, to the *neglect* of national health. (Apparently with little or no concern for the physical health of Australian citizens.)

The undemocratic and secretive nature of the NHMRC is demonstrated by its long-standing attitudes and policies published in the following extracts of its Annual Report 35 years ago.

It is obvious that genuine concern for the physical well-being of all Australians is overwhelmed by a "head-in-the-sand" attitude, apparently deeply embedded in the organisation, to continue to comply with early (and defective) overseas studies which have repeatedly been shown to ignore factual evidence of harm to human health.

The NHMRC doesn't even comply with the main thrust of one of its own policies:

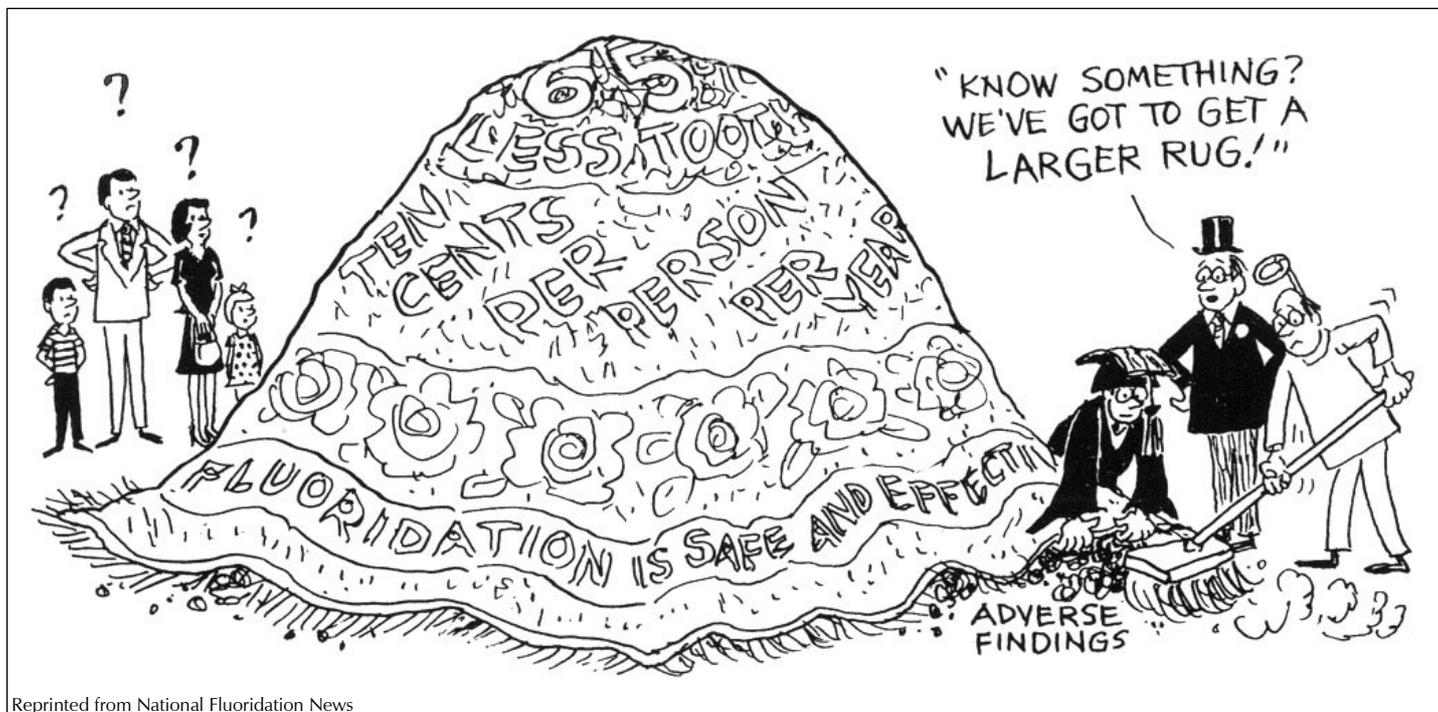
"The members of committees and subcommittees of the Council shall be elected on the basis of their value to committees or subcommittees as individuals and not as representatives of particular groups or organisations, except in the case of those committees and subcommittees approved by the Council to require State,

group or organisation representation. (Appendix XXII - Part1: General organization and administration of the Council and its committees, Item (xv), National Health and Medical Research Council, Report of the Eighty-seventh session, Sydney, June 1979, p. 129)'

So even though committee members should be elected on their value as *individuals*, NHMRC then gives itself the right to ignore the main theme of this policy and proceed to elect the majority of a committee from bodies having a vested interest in the policies it promotes! All behind the smokescreen of "National Health"!

Instead of its deliberations being open to public scrutiny, and to further obscure how NHMRC's reports of reviews and recommendations are determined, it states:

"The meetings and reports of all committees and subcommittees of Council are confidential (exception - (xxiii) and (xxiv) below). (Ibid, Item (xxii). p.130)". [Those exceptions require the approval of the Council or its Chairman - Editor.]



Reprinted from National Fluoridation News

The NHMRC has also failed to differentiate between the few natural water supplies contaminated with fluoride in Australia as it passed through fluoride bearing rock strata such as fluorite, and adding one of several highly toxic industrial-grade chemicals to naturally fluoride-free water supplies.

The vast majority of natural water supplies throughout the world are fluoride-free, or contain exceptionally small traces of fluoride, substantially below the concentration of the chemical added for fluoridation. Australia, the oldest continent, is particularly fortunate, with only a tiny proportion of water supplies contaminated with fluoride. Those water supplies, with a few exceptions, have concentrations significantly below the concentrations added artificially.

“There's too much cosiness between the NHMRC and the chemical industry.”

- Neil Blewett, former Federal Health Minister, as quoted by Glen Walker in his *Colac address, 1989.*

Without any investigations itself in Australian conditions, NHMRC has relied on overseas studies where a small proportion of water supplies are naturally fluoride-contaminated, to promote the addition of fluoride chemicals to water supplies in Australia. It has chosen to ignore the clear evidence that as least 10% of children are poisoned if they consume fluoride naturally present in contaminated water supplies overseas. That evidence of poisoning is obvious to a layman, more so to a trained professional as dental fluorosis, the first clear sign of damage to a child's health. Dental fluorosis is present in at least 10% of children who drink water naturally contaminated with fluoride. The 10% figure is now much higher, as fluoride comes through multiple sources these days. The York Review (2000) suggested a rate of 48%.

However, for many years, the NHMRC has chosen to ignore such evidence. (*Ibid, p. 23-24, Fluoridation of drinking water.*)

The NHMRC has had no problem adding such a toxic chemical to water supplies with no control of individual dosage, even though damage to the health of man is well established.

The Beginning of Fluoridation in Australia

The NHMRC has been a long-time advocate of adding industrial fluoride wastes to drinking water.

The NHMRC first endorsed fluoridation in 1953. The United States Public Health Service (PHS) had just endorsed fluoridation in 1950 and was aggressively promoting it. The timing of both endorsements was particularly strange given that the “Fluoridation Trials” (which ran from 1945 to 1955) were designed deliberately to *show* that fluoridation was effective, but were not even complete at the time the endorsements were made. It was a triumph of politics and promotion over science. The 'scientific' reports that followed the trials contained dodgy statistics.

For further information, see any of dental researcher Dr Philip Sutton's books, particularly *“The Greatest Fraud: Fluoridation”* where he covers the statistical sleight of hand, even detailing that the fluoridation trial statistics have been used to teach statistics students what NOT to do!

At the Fluoridation Trials half way point in 1950, when it was realised that in the control town of Muskegon the children had fewer cavities than the fluoridated town of Grand Rapids, the control town was fluoridated too!

Fluoridation promoters have known right from the start that fluoridation increases dental decay – they knew that Muskegon's dental decay rates would increase with fluoridation, hence the decision to fluoridate. All subsequent statements over the last six decades about fluoridation's supposed effectiveness in reducing decay were therefore proven, from the very beginning, to be bald-faced lies.

Further Questions of NHMRC Reports

The NHMRC reviews of fluoridation over the decades have shown similar unquestioning lines of inquiry, going through the motions but skirting scientific integrity on the key questions of safety and effectiveness. The NHMRC requires much more transparency and accountability.

The NHMRC's long standing support for fluoridation is only likely to be reversed with sufficient public pressure, sustained questioning of its biased policies and publicity about the way it stacks its committees with vested interest members, as revealed by Geoff Pain's article on page 1.

Brief News

Israel turns off the fluoride tap

Israel stopped fluoridation on 26 August 2014 after more than forty years of forced medication of the public.

Israel's Health Minister Yael German decided to prohibit fluoridation throughout the country (*The Australian Fluoridation News*, July-September 2013).

This change to fluoridation policy was criticised by the usual corporate vested interests (including dental, medical and health department "experts") wanting to water down the policy to allow "optional" fluoridation.

According to *The Jerusalem Post* (www.jpost.com, 17Aug 2014), Israel began fluoridating in 1970 "in cities, towns and settlements with over 5,000 residents, and indeed, 70 percent of Israelis have received fluoridated water".

While fluoridation continues anywhere in the world, we need to be vigilant, and keep educating and informing, or the industrial fluoride waste promoters will again try their habitual trick of sneaking it back in while no-one is paying attention.

Congratulations to all involved in this victory, including those behind the scenes.

Ireland's counties are voting to remove fluoride

Ireland is the last country with mandatory national fluoridation but the policy's days are numbered. A national movement of "fluoride free" awareness is sweeping the country and now five of the larger councils are voting to request the removal of fluoridation.

Ireland's largest councils Dublin and Cork (city) voted to do so earlier in 2014, while more recently Laois and Cork County added their voices to the call. Kerry County Council is the latest (10 Nov 2014) and voted unanimously "that Kerry County Council will write to the Government calling for the cessation of public water fluoridation."

But the council votes do not mean an end to fluoridation in those areas, it is up to the national government to repeal its Health (Fluoridation of Water Supplies) Act of 1960.

Despite fluoridation beginning in 1964 and now affecting around 70% of the country, Ireland's children are not any better off.

According to paediatric dentist Dr Daly writing in *The Irish Independent* (8 Nov 2014), "in Irish society, having multiple teeth removed under general anaesthetic is in high demand and is a relatively normal event in children's lives."

He continues: "Dental decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood. Many people don't realise that it is a preventable disease. It is largely caused by lifestyle

decisions such as diet, hygiene and fluoride use; choices which parents make on their children's behalf."

So much for fluoridation! Notice that Dr Daly says fluorides are a cause of dental decay. More precisely, fluorides cause teeth (and bones) to become brittle over time. These fluoridated teeth can then crumble faster than teeth without fluoride.

This health-damaging industrial chemical is being disposed of in our drinking water, without our informed consent. The growing determination of the Irish to rid themselves of the totalitarian regimen of fluoridation is an inspiration to us all.

Changing the fluoridation game is up to us

Fluoridation has now come to an end in Israel and is on the way out in Ireland. We must band together to increase our awareness of this colossal scam and take action to end it everywhere, including Australia, where state governments force it on living men and women.

While it continues in any country, we risk preying fluoride promoters forcing new communities to drink this industrial chemical cocktail, a forced medication that has been proven to cause a marked increase in both the incidence of cancer and cancer mortality. (See *The Australian Fluoridation News*, April-June 2011, "The Blaylock Interview").

The goal is to remove the damaging policy of fluoridation from the few remaining countries. It is up to us, we can't just wait or leave it to others. Learn more, get involved and go beyond who you have been in the past, to contribute what you can, in whatever ways you can. You'll be glad you did.

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