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Federal Minister for Health
The Hon Greg Hunt
House of Representatives
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CC. Shadow Minister for Health:
Hon Chris Bowen MP: chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au

CC. Qld Minister of Health and Ambulance Services:
Hon Dr Steven Miles MP: health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

CC. Qld Shadow Minister:
Hon Roz Bates MP: mudgeeraba@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Honorable Ministers of Health

Re: PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE - NOTICE of LIABILITY FOR FLUORIDATION HEALTH DAMAGES

A recent U.S. government-funded [JAMA Pediatrics](#) 'Mother-Offspring' study linked prenatal exposure to fluoride with lower IQ for the offspring of women living in optimally fluoridated Canadian cities. **Researchers found: "There was no safe level" of fluoride exposure during pregnancy.**

I wish to express my sincere disappointment regarding the apathy of government in preventing excessive exposure of fluoride via public drinking water supplies when there is now so much damning scientific evidence pointing to harm being done. Researchers are now likening fluoride poisoning from our food and water environmental exposures to exposure to lead with equal adverse health side effects.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2748634>

While the study looked at total fluoride intake from all sources, the study revealed that for pregnant women, "60-80% of their fluoride consumption came from fluoridated water," clearly implicating the practice as the primary contributor to the outcome.

Researcher Rivka Green put the level of harm into perspective, drawing numerous parallels to lead and stating that 14% of the women in a fluoridated region have a urinary fluoride level of **1mg/litre or higher--the amount that reduced IQ by an average of 4.5 points--** equating to tens-of-thousands of Canadians and hundreds-of-thousands of Americans.

In the [editorial piece by Harvard Professor Dr. David Bellinger](#) that accompanies the study he provides an overview of recent fluoride/IQ research, and highlights the strengths of the study and need for additional research. Though he also gives the following warning:

“The hypothesis that fluoride is a neurodevelopmental toxicant must now be given serious consideration...It is instructive to recall that the hypothesis that subclinical lead exposures pose a neurodevelopmental hazard was bitterly contested in the 1980s and 1990s, and it was only the weight of evidence that eventually accumulated that led to the now widely held consensus that no level of lead exposure is safe...If the hypothesis is true, the implications are worrisome. Exposure to fluoride has increased substantially in recent decades...If the effect sizes reported by Green et al and others are valid, the total cognitive loss at the population level that might be associated with children’s prenatal exposure to fluoride could be substantial.”

Keep in mind that this study does not stand alone. Instead, it confirms previous findings by [Bashash et al. in 2017 and Thomas et al. in 2018](#) that low levels of fluoride during foetal development will cause cognitive impairment, as well as [over 300 animal and other human studies](#) indicating fluoride’s potential to damage the brain.

NHMRC’s review panel into safety of fluoridation should be thoroughly investigated regarding conflicts of interest with fluoride industry ties, including Colgate influence. Recent reviews have featured too many dentist lobby professionals and not enough toxicologists with expertise in assessing biological toxicological effects of ingested chemicals.

Cherrypicking studies that were inconclusive and that did not contradict the dental industry dogmas were the norm. They even prevented the submission of animal studies for review of toxicological safety when animal studies are commonly used to assess safety of ingested medicines.

Where other western countries are now scaling back their use of fluoridation because of inability to control dose in individuals, Australia keeps bulldozing ahead with forced fluoride prophylactic for all – seemingly ignorant of the potential health hazards increasingly coming to light. Or perhaps you are aware of the dangers and for this reason your recent change to the TGAct was an attempt to step backwards from responsibility and liability.

Should you not be mindful that fluoride suppresses use of iodine and magnesium – two vital minerals used by the thyroid and essential for brain function and IQ?

Are you aware that Australian iodine studies in school children [revealed that iodine deficiency](#) are commonplace?

Are you aware that the academic performance of Australian school children has been falling backwards in relation to other countries? A recent report put us down at 39 out of 41 OECD countries: “The report found that only 71.7 per cent of Australian 15-year-olds are achieving baseline standards in the three key areas of education, based on the latest [PISA assessment](#).” <https://www.smh.com.au/education/un-agency-ranks-australia-39-out-of-41-countries-for-quality-education-20170615-gwrt9u.html>

Could there be a physico-chemical associations and causative connections? I think it’s highly likely when you join the dots. I think there is sufficient evidence to err on the side of caution

and to implement a moratorium on fluoridation to help our kids catch up on the IQ scales again.

The trend is becoming blatantly obvious and can no longer be denied. The old dental mantra of fluoridation being 'safe and effective' is laughable. Even [Cochrane Review of 2015 found](#): "There is **very little contemporary evidence**, meeting the review's inclusion criteria, **that has evaluated the effectiveness of water fluoridation for the prevention of caries.**" The question to ask is, why do we still do it? It's like banging your head against a brick wall and wondering if the pain would stop if you stopped the head banging.

Are you filtering the water your own children drink? Are you happy for them to drink lead-contaminated water? Then why fluoride-contaminated water when both are proven neurotoxins? Are you aware that **hexafluorosilicic acid** is an industrial waste product from phosphate fertilizer and aluminium processing? Are you aware that these chemicals added to drinking water supplies are not first cleansed to remove **naturally occurring lead wastes – which are present?**

The recent change to TGA to deny responsibility for regulation of fluoridation (used as prophylactic to prevent caries) does indicate that your policy makers and NHMRC reviewers realised the quandary of TGA's role as medicine regulator – not regulating the medicinal use of fluoride added to water supply. What a contradiction! All will be brought to light in due course, so there is no use to hide transgressions and mistakes in policy. It's best to come clean now and declare a fluoridation moratorium so Australians can get 'clean' un-fluoridated water and improved IQs.

The bottom line is that your NHMRC reviewing panel of professionals have public liability indemnity insurance to protect them from professional liability for causing health harm (knowingly or unknowingly) via their 'advice'. However, you have been given NOTICE of the dangers and are held liable by virtue of your high office for damages incurred by your public health policy by the people of Australia for whom you have a conscientious duty of care to serve and protect.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and important public health issue. I look forward to your reply.

Kindest regards

Sandy Sanderson