

24 February 2020

By email to:

The Hon. Greg Hunt

Federal Minister for Health

Email: Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au

RE: Invitation for a briefing / consultation with visiting Professor Paul Connett

Dear Minister Hunt

Fluoride Free Australia wrote to you on 16 February, inviting you to meet Professor Paul Connett in March on the urgent matter of toxic fluoride exposure. Thank you for your prompt reply on 17 February, sent by your Executive Assistant. You declined to meet Professor Connett due to "the Minister's schedule". As an Advisory Board member I am continuing this communication on behalf of Andrew Parry.

Given the importance of Professor Connett's information, and the recent rapid developments in understanding of the damage any amount of fluoride can cause to the developing brain of infants and children, we should have said Professor Connett would be pleased to meet other relevant health chiefs or departmental officers, in the event that you can't attend the meeting. So we again invite you to make the most of the opportunity of having an authority and expert on this matter such as Professor Connett here in Australia by asking you to delegate senior personnel to meet him. Delegates could include NHMRC personnel who were involved in the most recent reviews of fluoride and water fluoridation, and senior public health officials in your department.

Regarding this meeting, we ask if you could answer several questions that our Australia-wide membership are most interested and concerned about, as follows:

QUESTIONS:

(1) Are you and your department up to date and aware of the pending Federal Court trial of fluoridation in the USA, to take place in April?

The legal action is being taken against the US EPA for failing to set the allowable limit of fluoride in drinking water low enough to protect the lives and health of children, infants and babies in utero.

Are you aware that the EPA has twice attempted to have a judge throw the action out of court, and twice a Federal judge has ruled that the case presented against the EPA, in the matter of fluoride in drinking water, has merit and must continue?

(2) Are you aware that the case against fluoridation and the EPA in the USA has great ramifications for Australia, since it is examining the same range of fluoride levels that are put into water supplies in Australian fluoridation schemes, as advocated in Australian Federal government documents such as the most recent Australian National Oral Health Plan?

(3) Do you wish to stay ahead of this developing scandal regarding fluoride exposure and the health of babies and children?

If so, I humbly suggest that your Australian advisors, e.g. at the NHMRC, are not advising you in a timely manner or with sufficient urgency on this matter. Professor Connett, representing a large group of highly-qualified, international toxicology and dental experts, would undoubtedly be the ideal person to bring you or your delegated representatives up to date on this matter. If the meeting should be a robust discussion and debate, so much the better for bringing all concerned to the best possible outcome for the health and wellbeing of Australian children.

(4) Are you aware of the very close similarity of the recent understanding of FLUORIDE neurotoxicity with the way in which our knowledge of lead poisoning burst into public consciousness, and regulators were caught napping some decades ago? Fluoride and lead are both neurotoxins that affect the developing brain of a fetus, infant and child. Fluoride and lead have very similar degrees of toxicity at the same concentrations. Other substances with that degree of toxicity have public health goals of ZERO exposure to children and ZERO concentration in water; fluoride, however, has escaped proper regulation in this way. The upcoming legal action against the US EPA is the likely mechanism that will abruptly catapult fluoride into being strictly regulated in the same way as lead.

Are you aware of this? Have NHMRC personnel being advising you on this?

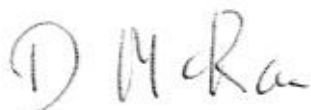
Minister Hunt, many of our membership and supporter base with children or grandchildren are deeply concerned about these issues. Concerned with the way in which Australian children are being exposed to fluoride, in a daily and constant way. Once again we invite and urge you to make the best use of having Professor Connett in Australia in March, as per our previous email, and to find the appropriate health personnel to meet him on your behalf.

Professor Connett will be in Melbourne from midday Wednesday 25 March until Monday afternoon 30 March and in Sydney 30 March to 1 April and again on 9 April. He might be available to fly to Canberra on Tuesday 24 March or Thursday 9 April, but we would appreciate you letting us know **as soon as possible**.

We look forward to your response and also to your answers to the questions posed above.

Yours sincerely

David McRae

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D McRae". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Advisory Board member
Fluoride Free Australia Inc.

fluoridefreeaustralia.org