

2 March 2020

By email to:

The Hon. Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Health, Minister for Ambulance Services

Victorian Government

Email: jenny.mikakos@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Dear Minister Mikakos

Fluoride Free Australia wrote to you on 31 January, inviting you to meet Professor Paul Connett in March, on the urgent matter of toxic fluoride exposure.

Thank you for your reply on 14 February, sent by an assistant. You declined to meet with Professor Connett due to 'a busy schedule'.

Given the importance of Professor Connett's information, and the recent rapid developments in understanding of the damage that any amount of fluoride can cause to the brain of a fetus, infant and child, we should have included that Professor Connett would be pleased to meet with other relevant health chiefs or departmental officers, in the event that you are unable to attend the meeting. So we again invite you to make the most of this opportunity of having so notable an authority as Professor Connett here in Australia by asking you to delegate senior personnel to undertake the meeting with him. Delegates, perhaps such as an assistant minister and Health Department senior officers including the Chief Health Officer.

Regarding this meeting (possible dates below) we ask if you could answer several questions that our Victorian and Australia-wide membership are most interested and concerned about.

QUESTIONS:

(1) Are you and your department up-to-date and aware of the impending 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 Victoria since it is examining the same range of levels of fluoride that are put into water supplies in Victorian fluoridation schemes?

(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 advisers within the Health Department, or elsewhere, 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 and your delegated representatives up to date in this area. 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 going forward.

(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 brains of babies and children. Fluoride and lead have very similar degrees of toxicity at the same concentrations. Most substances with that degree of toxicity have public health goals of ZERO exposure to children and ZERO concentration in water; fluoride, however, has lagged behind in being properly regulated 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 health department or NHMRC personnel been advising you on this?

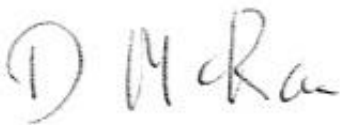
Minister Mikakos, many of our membership and supporter base with children and grandchildren are deeply concerned about these issues – concerned that Victorian/Australian children are being exposed to fluoride, in a daily and constant way. Once again we invite and urge you to make the best use of having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

And we certainly look forward to your answers to the questions posed above.

Professor Connett will be in Melbourne from the afternoon of 25 March until Monday 30 March.

Yours sincerely

David McRae

A handwritten signature in blue 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.

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