

Letters to the Editor - Moree Champion, 19th Feb 2004.

Fluoride follies

What an extraordinary letter on fluoridation by Dr Puxtey, (*Moree Champion*, February 12).

History can be forgotten or hidden, but never expunged from records, such as the disgusting and dishonest push for fluoridation of Moree water supplies by so-called professional people representing the NSW government health department.

Copies of 1998 editions of the *Moree Champion* disclose dishonest actions by people in responsible positions, misleading Moree council and people.

NSW Cancer Centre senior officer Dr Joyce Ford presented extreme misinformation in person to Moree council, telling it that CSIRO scientists in Adelaide had researched fluoridation and found it did not cause cancer.

Our investigation into the CSIRO discovered Dr Ford's message and claims to Moree council were false and that no such research had been done and was not even suggested by the CSIRO for the future (outlined in an official letter from the head of the CSIRO). Now we have a doctor using the NH&MRC as a prop to support a message that fluoridation will "decrease dental decay by 40 to 50 percent and is safe".

The NH&MRC cannot produce any scientific proof of fluoridation being safe for humans. The reality is the NH&MRC in their publication stated "with the inherent limitations of the data it is difficult to quantify this effect (fluoridation) precisely".

However, in 1991 the NH&MRC book *The Effectiveness of Water Fluoridation*, states: "Nevertheless, it is estimated (fluoridation) to confer an approximate 20 to 40 percent reduction in contemporary western populations, including Australia, the reduction in caries in permanent teeth in children is likely to be toward the lower end of the scale".

Fluoridation research on behalf of the UK Government at York University in 2000 found that 15 percent recorded improvement but qualified that statement by saying the quality of research was very poor.

The NH&MRC state that "it is a matter of concern that the Working Group (NH&MRC) cannot point to a single ongoing Australian study which monitors adequately the impact and possible adverse consequences of this policy (fluoridation)".

"It is necessary to establish a much more detailed and higher-quality data base for the purpose of monitoring the trend in dental health in Australia." "

So claims of fluoridation effectiveness by Dr Puxtey do not have scientific credibility, together with the fact that there is no scientific proof of safety.

In the *Moree Champion*, September 15, 1988, it was reported 96 percent of the people of Pallamallawa voted to remove fluoridation. At that meeting I debated fluoridation against NSW government senior dental officer Dr Allan Patterson.

Out of 113 registered local people who voted, 112 voted to immediately stop the fluoridation of their drinking water. This overwhelming defeat of fluoridation resulted in an admission from the Minister for Health. Mr Collins, altering the Fluoridation Act and increasing the penalty of not complying to \$5000, an action further from people's democratic choice.

Another clause also stated that The removal of a fluoridation plant must first obtain permission from the Secretary of Health".

In other words - fluoridation plants are protected from community action.

A perfect description of the fluoridation promoters: Those who know the least know it in the loudest manner".

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