

**Submission
No 245**

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

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Theme:

Summary

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW.
Thursday 23 August 2005

Peter Clarke,

23 - 8 - 2005

It is well known by the Health Department that before fluoridation of the potable water supply can be carried out that extensive scientific research has to be undertaken to find out the present total amount of ingested fluoride by the population.

To support my statement please refer to Macleay Argus 5 - 11 - 2004 Chris Crawford's press release.

Quote:- "A WHO document on sources of Fluoride Exposure from 1994 said dental and health administrators should be aware of the total fluoride exposure in the population before introducing any additional fluoride program..."

An excerpt from the Journal of Dental Research said "an estimate of the amount of fluoride ingested from all environmental and dietary sources is important so that rational and scientifically sound decisions can be made when guidelines for the use of fluorides are reviewed periodically and modified. Unquote

I have seen a letter from NSW Health's Dr. Denise Robinson (Acting Deputy Director-General, Population Health and Chief Health Officer dated 7 - 4 - 05 which states NSW Health has not currently commissioned any studies into fluoride ingestion rates or "fluoride induced arthritic symptoms"

This is a letter to Mr John Irving from Mr Phill Callen of the National Health and Medical Research Council, dated 24 - 2 - 2005

"In 1998, HAC commissioned a review of fluoride in Australia. It had been intended that this review would update NHMRC advice on the topic. However in December 2002 it became apparent that the review was deficient in a number of areas in consideration of fluoride intakes in different age groups, sources of fluoride, and fluoride, and oral health. HAC realised that there were insufficient resources available to complete the additional work required to finalise the report. Consequently, HAC agreed it was necessary to discontinue this work and has no plans to recommence at this stage."

It is obvious that no scientific ingestion studies have been carried out in spite of the Health Department repeatedly stating they have.

I wish to strongly suggest that the members of the INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW lobby the Health Dept at all levels to install a moratorium on the introduction of fluoride to the water supply of the Macleay, Kempsey Shire until these studies have been carried out.