

**Submission
No 10**

INQUIRY INTO DENTAL SERVICES IN NSW

Organisation:

Name: Ms Erika Lovriha

Telephone:

Date Received: 4/05/2005

Theme:

Summary

Erika Lovriha

1st May 2005

The Director
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Sydney 2000
NSW

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to make a submission on the "Inquiry into dental services in NSW" regarding the matter of Water Fluoridation.

Water fluoridation is promoted by the NSW Government on the basis that fluoride is safe for all people and it helps reduce tooth decay.

The chemical most used in fluoridation schemes is Silicifluoride which has never been tested for safe human consumption but has been shown to be associated with behavioural disorders in children and increased rates of social violence and crime. Silicofluoride is delivered to water supplies as an industrial grade product that contains contaminants such as Arsenic (a known carcinogen) and Lead (a probable carcinogen). This is not healthy for human consumers, nor is it healthy for the wider biological environment .

One of the symptoms of fluoride poisoning is dental fluorosis which involves the weakening of the tooth structure and consequently leads to higher rates of tooth decay. Fluoridated places such as Sydney are experiencing rising rates in tooth decay (Sydney Morning Herald,15 February 2005) . Some unfluoridated areas such as the Mid North Coast of NSW actually have lower rates of tooth decay than many fluoridated areas.

The NSW Department of Health does not appear to be monitoring rates of dental fluorosis, nor warning people of the potential for overdosing their children with fluoride from their tapwater and they do not appear to have investigated any dental care alternatives to fluoridation.

Only about 1% of water is actually consumed while the balance goes to bathing ,washing and the garden. The installation of fluoridation equipment is estimated to cost about \$A 1 Million per water supply. This money would be better spent on direct dental services rather than in the wasteful practice of fluoridation.

Thank you for considering this submission as part of your inquiry.

Yours Sincerely

(E. Lovriha)

