Fluoridation of Queensland’s water supplies: it’s coming!

The Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, has recently set in motion the compulsory fluoridation of Queensland’s water supplies. Fluoridation will forcibly mass medicate four million Queenslanders by the addition of one or more of three fluoride compounds to the public water supplies. Forced Fluoridation, ostensibly to treat or reduce tooth decay, is medication:

- for unseen patients
- with medical history unknown
- with dose controlled only by thirst
- with no right of refusal
- for a lifetime

Currently less than 5% of Queenslanders drink fluoridated water.

WHAT DO THEY ACTUALLY PUT IN THE WATER?

The three fluoride chemicals that could be added to Queensland water supplies for fluoridation are hydrofluoric acid, sodium silicofluoride and sodium fluoride.

Hydrofluoric acid and sodium silicofluoride are the chemicals used most for fluoridation in other Australian states. These silicofluorides are waste products of superphosphate fertilizer manufacture. They are industrial grade, not pharmaceutical grade, and can contain trace residues of toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead.

These two silicofluoride compounds do not occur in nature, yet fluoridation promoters call them “natural”. No toxicology studies have ever been performed on the silicofluoride used for water fluoridation. The only toxicology studies ever conducted have been on pharmaceutical grade sodium fluoride as is used in toothpaste.

Freedom of Information reveals that Bamaga is fluoridated with a silicofluoride.

Sodium fluoride is a waste product of aluminium smelting and is the chemical used in the Queensland towns, Dalby, Mareeba, Moranbah and Townsville/Thuringowah.

Sodium fluoride used in other Queensland areas is imported from China. It appears that it is a waste product of the Chinese aluminium smelting industry.

Water from rivers, creeks or dams normally contains small amounts of natural fluoride, the levels in surface waters of SE Queensland being usually about 0.1 parts per million. This is one tenth of the amount of fluoride that the government plans to add to Queensland’s water supplies.

Natural fluoride comes from rocks that contain fluor spar, which is calcium fluoride. Because calcium fluoride is very insoluble, it is many times less toxic than the chemicals used in artificial fluoridation, and the calcium tends to buffer the toxicity of the fluoride. The element fluorine binds readily with calcium. Calcium fluoride is not permitted to be added to water supplies in Australia.

Groundwater in the form of bore water or well water can contain very high levels of natural fluoride compounds, and in parts of China, India and the Rift Valley of Africa, natural fluoride has led to crippling skeletal fluorosis for millions of people. “Natural” does not necessarily mean good or desirable.

THERE ARE SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS WITH FLUORIDATION

[In this magazine we elaborated on the various aspects of artificial fluoridation in the Autumn 2006 issue, pages 62 - 64, and will not repeat those here. However, the following recent warnings by Dr Hardy Limeback are very significant – Editor.]

Dr Hardy Limeback is one of the 12 scientists who served on the National Academy of Sciences panel that issued the 2006 report, ‘Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of the EPA’s Standards’. Dr Limeback is an associate professor of dentistry and head of the preventive dentistry program at the University of Toronto.

Bone cancer (osteosarcoma) has been identified as a risk in young boys in a recently published Harvard study (Bassin, Cancer Causes and Control, 2006). The author of this study, Dr Elise Bassin, acknowledges that perhaps it is the use of contaminated fluorosilicates that caused the seven-fold increase in the risk of bone cancer.

Bone fracture. Drinking on average 1 litre/day of naturally fluoridated water at 4 parts per million increases your risk for bone pain and bone fractures (National Academy of Sciences: Toxicological Risk of Fluoride in Drinking Water, 2006). Since fluoride accumulates in bone, the same risk occurs in people who drink 4 litres/day of artificially fluoridated water at 1 part per million, or in people with renal disease. Fluoridation studies have never properly shown that fluoride is safe in individuals who cannot control their dose or in patients who retain higher amounts of fluoride.

Adverse thyroid function. The National Academy of Sciences report (referred to above) explains in great detail detrimental effects that fluoride has on the endocrine system, especially the thyroid. Fluoridation is potentially harmful on the basis that endocrine function has never been studied in relation to total fluoride intake.

Adverse neurological effects. In addition to the accumulation of lead (a neurotoxin) in children living in fluoridated cities, fluoride itself is a known neurotoxin. Scientists are only now beginning to understand how fluoride affects the brain. Since some recent Chinese studies suggest that fluoride in drinking water lowers IQ, this needs to be studied in depth.

In my opinion, the evidence that fluoridation is more harmful than beneficial is now overwhelming, and policy makers who avoid thoroughly reviewing recent data before introducing new fluoridation schemes do so at risk of future litigation.
WHO ARE THE QAWF?
Queenslanders Against Water Fluoridation was formed in 2005 and incorporated early in 2006. Many of the members are from the health and healing professions, including medical and pharmaceutical. We also have supporters from the dental profession. The majority of us are parents or grandparents and we are all very conscious of not exposing our children to junk food, drinks or any potentially harmful chemicals. We understand that the key to healthy teeth is a minimal intake of processed foods, especially those containing refined sugar, combined with regular cleaning/flossing and regular visits to the dentist.

Through personal experiences and research of scientific publications, we have become aware of many adverse health effects associated with fluoridation. When faced with information from government agencies that misleadingly portrays water fluoridation as being safe for all citizens, while governments deny it is mass medication, we formed this group to research all related issues and to pass the information to all levels of government and the public.

After an interval of nearly 30 years, in the last three years we have seen an unprecedented rush to forcibly fluoridate every remaining unfluoridated area in Australia. We have been actively lobbying state governments to not force fluoridation on the public and asking them to commence the health and safety studies that the National Health and Medical Research Council said – as long ago as 1991 – should be done urgently.

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A LETTER TO THE QLD PREMIER FROM THE NATURAL HEALTH SOCIETY
In support of the QAWF we mailed the following letter and attachments to the Premier with copies to all members of the Queensland Parliament.
4th January 2008
Ms Anna Bligh
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City East
Brisbane Qld 4002

Dear Ms Bligh,

WATER FLUORIDATION FOR QUEENSLAND
At the request of our daughter who lives in Brisbane with her four children, I wish to contribute the following factual information on the issue of water fluoridation.

The answer to the opposing claims about fluoridation was made clear in Europe in 2003. After 40 years of trialling fluoridation at Basle, Switzerland, the trial was terminated because:
(a) its effectiveness was not proven by any study;
(b) dental caries had been increasing;
(c) the danger of fluorosis (fluoride toxicity) was significant.

Fluoridation almost certainly causes more harm than good because the fluoride compounds used are polluting waste products of the aluminium, superphosphate and other industries and are extremely toxic. Even at the one part per million used in fluoridation of public water supplies, toxic effects have been documented. In contrast, the fluoride occurring naturally in water is almost always buffered by calcium and is many times less toxic.

The most thorough and comprehensive study of fluoride and water fluoridation ever conducted was carried out by a former president of the American College of Allergists, Dr George Waldbott, who published his findings in 1965 in a fully-documented book, A Struggle With Titans. The hard facts in this book are entirely relevant today.

The allergist concluded that fluoride is a "systemic poison", capable of affecting almost every system in the body. Because the symptoms can be varied and inconsistent, few medical practitioners would ever suspect fluoride toxicity.

We already ingest fluoride compounds from polluted air and from food. Drinking six cups of tea daily doubles the intended dose, stated Dr Waldbott.

In addition to accumulating in bones and teeth, fluoride also accumulates in soft tissues, including skin, muscles, liver and kidneys. In the great fluoridation trials of the 1940s, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, deaths due to heart disease, cancer, diabetes and brain diseases rose 25 to 50% faster after four years than those of Michigan as a whole.

In relation to cancer, there is now a substantial body of evidence indicating that fluoride can induce bone cancer in both animals and humans. Most notably, a recent study conducted at Harvard University found a significant relationship between fluoride exposure and osteosarcoma among boys, particularly if exposed to fluoridated
war between the ages of 6 and 8 (the mid-childhood growth spurt). The possibility of a link between fluoride exposure and osteosarcoma is acknowledged by the US National Toxicology Program.

In Australia, a fully-documented world record for dental health was achieved by a group of children born during World War 2, known as the 'Hopewood Children'. Sydney Dental Hospital studies found an insignificant level of fluoride in their drinking water and concluded that the reason for the children's outstanding dental health was their diet of natural foods. In particular, the diet was free of refined sugar and other refined carbohydrates.

The history of fluoridation is riddled with vested interest and deceit. It began in the 1930s when the aluminium industry was in trouble because its fluoride wastes were poisoning cattle, vegetation and humans. A Pittsburg chemist, Gerald J Cox, funded by the aluminium and sugar industries, proposed putting the wastes in the water supply—a practice that is still in place in many countries worldwide.

In Australia, a fully-documented world record for dental health was achieved by a group of children born during World War 2, known as the 'Hopewood Children'. Sydney Dental Hospital studies found an insignificant level of fluoride in their drinking water and concluded that the reason for the children's outstanding dental health was their diet of natural foods. In particular, the diet was free of refined sugar and other refined carbohydrates.

The US Public Health Service adopted fluoridation, explained Dr Waldott, without first conducting adequate studies to establish its safety. It then became virtually impossible for them to reverse their position in spite of new research which established its hazards. Dental promoter, Dr Frank Bull, declared to a 1951 meeting, "Why should we do a pre-fluoridation survey? ... We have told the public it works, so we cannot go back on that."

This is where the issue still stands today—highly emotional and ignoring the most thorough research ever conducted on the subject. Recently, 600 professionals have called upon the US Congress to bring an end to water fluoridation. Also, the Professor of Chemistry of St Lawrence University, Canton, NY, Dr Paul Connett, has described water fluoridation as absurd.

Why does the New South Wales Health Department have a policy of supporting fluoridation? First and foremost, they have apparently followed the American line and never seen independent works such as the in-depth investigation by Dr George Waldott. Secondly, having endorsed fluoridation, if they reverse their stance, the government could be swamped with law suits for harm seen to be done.

The Queensland State Government is in the comfortable position of being able to stay clear of this situation by rejecting fluoridation now.

Your faithfully,
Roger French
Health Director, Natural Health Society of Australia

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**THE EARLY HISTORY OF WATER FLUORIDATION IN BRIEF**

By Roger French, Health Director
Natural Health Society of Australia
January 2008

In the 1930s in America Alcoa and some other manufacturers were in trouble because of law suits over the poisoning of cattle and other farm animals by sodium fluoride, a waste product that was polluting local environments. For example, Reynolds Metals Co. of Oregon was sued $3,000,000 for damage to the dairy herd of 'Fairview Farm'.

1933 - 40: A researcher, Dr Gerald J Cox was studying the causes of tooth decay on a grant from the sugar industry and Alcoa, and was asked to find a use for sodium fluoride. Having in mind that decayed teeth had been found to contain less fluoride than healthy teeth, he proposed putting the chemical in water supplies for the purpose of reducing tooth decay.

Years later it was realised that data about fluoride levels in decayed and healthy teeth had been misinterpreted, but by then fluoridation was underway. Fluoridation had commenced its 'career' based on erroneous research.

1945: The 'great fluoridation experiments' began. Four cities in four North American states were artificially fluoridated and compared with four similar cities as controls. The investigations were planned to run 10 to 15 years.

1947: Oscar Ewing became Federal Security Administrator of the US, which put him in control of the US Public Health Service and the Food and Drug Administration. He had been Chief Attorney for the American Aluminium Co. which had been having fluoride pollution problems.

1948: The 'Donora Disaster' occurred. Donora, an industrial city with a zinc plant and steel mills, was covered by a thermal inversion for four days. The accumulation of polluted air caused 6,000 out of the 13,000 residents to become ill and 20 people to die. Investigation found acute fluoride poisoning in a population that already had high bodily loads of toxic chemicals.

1949: With such adverse publicity, and although the trials were barely half way through, Oscar Ewing decided that he could not risk waiting any longer, and launched a multi-million dollar promotion campaign. Under director, Edward L Bernays, artificial fluoridation became the official policy of the US Public Health Service.

1950: The Sugar Research Foundation expressed that its aim in dental research was "to discover effective means of controlling tooth decay by methods other than restricting sugar intake."

1951: State dental directors held a meeting behind closed doors to develop a fluoridation promotion campaign. One of their most ardent campaigners, Dr Frank Bull, made the following statements:

"Don't say 'adding sodium fluoride. We never do that—that is rat poison. We add 'fluorides'."

"This toxicity question is a difficult one. So when you get the answer on the question of toxicity, please write me at once, because I would like to know."

"Now why should we do a pre-fluoridation survey? Is it to find out if fluoridation works? No. We have told the public it works, so we cannot go back on that."

The marketing ethics of campaign director, Edward Bernays, are revealed in his book, *Crystallising Public Opinion*, in which he states, "The subject matter of the propaganda need not necessarily be true.

1957: Concerned scientists began opposition to the promotion. The 'Medical-Dental Committee on Evaluation of Fluoridation issued 'A Statement on the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies'. The nine-point statement included:

"Positive proof of the safety of fluoridation is required. None has been offered."

"The so-called therapeutic concentration of fluoride, arbitrarily established at 1 ppm in drinking water, is in the toxic range."

"Dental fluorosis, the first obvious symptom of chronic fluoride toxicity in children, is an inevitable result of fluoridation."

1965: The magazine, *Saturday Review*, published research by Dr Alfred Taylor of the University of Texas showing that mice on fluoridated water developed cancer at an earlier age. Dr Taylor also found that some of the mice developed bladder stones, a condition which he had never before seen in his mouse colony.

1967: The FDA banned the sale of fluoride preparations for pre-natal use.

1967: In Great Britain 228 doctors, dentists and other scientists published a letter (the 'Cook letter') stating that it is wrong to fluoridate public drinking water supplies.

1968: Judge R C Tartar of the Kentucky Circuit Court, after reviewing the evidence for and against fluoridation, rejected an application to fluoridate Somerset, Kentucky, with the comment, "Like all nostrums, fluoridation will soon pass away. In 50 years time it will be known as the greatest hoax in medical history."

1968: Fluoridation commenced in Sydney NSW.