

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee Meeting 01-2021

Date and time: 3 May 2021 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Item	Key discussion points	Actions
1. Welcome		
1.1. Welcome		
1.2. Committee member introductions	Engineers Australia NSW has not yet provided a nominee for the committee. Previous member will join the committee as an observer as the immediate past nominee.	
2. Role of Committee and Terms of Reference		
2.1. Fluoridation program and legislation	Link to Fluoridation Act	
2.2. Role of committee		Committee to consider the existing terms of reference and whether these should be updated.
2.3. Future meetings		Committee to consider frequency of future meetings and mix of virtual / in person meetings.
3. NSW Health update		
3.1. Fluoridation support and budget	Minister for Health has committed to 100% funding of capital works and operator training. NSW Health provides support to utilities including external contractor assistance where needed.	
3.2. Ongoing projects		NSW Health to provide update at a future meeting

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3.3. Centre for Oral Health Strategy update	<p>Centre for Oral Health Strategy may have data that could be used to investigate rates of tooth decay in regional towns, including places where fluoridation has been offline for some time eg Dubbo.</p> <p>Opportunities for specific research projects through the Chair of Population Oral Health at University of Sydney. Could include research into towns with no access to fluoridated water.</p> <p>COHS maintains involvement and revision of training resources, particularly for operator training courses.</p>	<p>NSW Health to present on bottled water at a future meeting.</p> <p>NSW Health to provide update on water fluoridation in the broader Oral Health context and strategic directions.</p>
4. Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water update		
	<p>DPIE Water continues to support regional NSW water utilities and NSW Health with technical advice.</p> <p>DPIE provides the key role in training fluoridation system operators and inspecting new fluoridation systems for compliance with the Code of Practice.</p> <p>Lack of trained operators a key barrier to operations in many towns that are not fluoridating.</p>	
5. Public water supply fluoridation update		
	Presentation	NSW Health to develop draft procedure for utilities that have temporarily ceased fluoridation or failing to commence. This should consider communications, escalation procedures, community notification.
6. Committee members updates		

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	<p>ADA NSW has been active in Port Macquarie. Council has resolved to run a non-binding community poll on support for fluoridation. ADA NSW is advocating to the council to not run a community poll on water fluoridation.</p> <p>NSW Health noted the request to provide information to Council on fluoridation that would be distributed along with fluoride information.</p>	
7. General business		
	<p>Discussion of scope of committee advocacy regarding fluoride in other forms, such as bottled water.</p>	
8. Other business (LC)		