

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee Meeting 01-2016

Minutes for publication

Date and time:	28 October 2016, 9:30 am
Attachments:	Minutes of October '15 meeting

Item	Key discussion points	Actions
1. Welcome and apologies		
	Apologies as above	
2. Previous minutes		
	Accepted	
3. Public water supply fluoridation – Implementation and management		
	<p>Expertise constraints - consider ongoing mentoring – weekly or fortnightly visits to newly commencing fluoride plants.</p> <p>Water quality constraints – in some towns acceptability of the town water supply may be a barrier, may be necessary to address water quality before considering fluoridation.</p> <p>Naturally occurring fluoride in groundwater supplies - NSW Health working with ARCPOH to determine background levels and evidence of efficacy.</p> <p>Resource constraints - some systems are not visited daily, fluoridation would pose a significant resourcing cost.</p> <p>Future directions - consider better monitoring technology to avoid daily operator visits.</p> <p>Consider funding a project to run parallel online and manual fluoride testing. Look at</p>	<p>NSW Health to investigate options to get fluoride operators trained in remote areas.</p>

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	<p>Sydney Water existing data. NSW Council mergers saw 25 water utilities cease and 12 new entities commence. Confirm legality of administrators referring the question of fluoridation in absence of elected council. Councils considering introducing fluoride – NSW Health to speak to new councillors</p> <p>Different models of community engagement are being used, including internet-based.</p>	<p>NSW Health to provide Committee with update on consultations.</p>
4. Public water supply fluoridation – expanding fluoridation coverage		
	<p>Previous discussion covered this item.</p>	
5. Committee members update		
<p>5.1. Role of Committee</p>	<p>Local dental and medical practitioners may support fluoridation but there may be a risk to reputation if community is not supportive. Local support is vital, so need to better support these people. Younger practitioners worth engaging with, might be a change in culture in some regional areas.</p> <p>Councils with administrators can face problems with poor decisions.</p> <p>The committee will aim for one face to face meeting in 2017, quarterly email bulletin from NSW Health, teleconferences where needed for decision making.</p>	
<p>5.2. Education and advocacy</p>	<p>ADA involved both in advocating, and acting as expert media responder. Links</p>	

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	with committee valuable.	
6. NSW Health update		
6.1. NSW fluoridation statistics	Recent data analysis shows fluoridation coverage in NSW at 93% of total population, and 97.5% of those connected to public water supplies.	
6.2. Research projects	Three ongoing research projects with ARCPOH. Updates on research progress to be presented to Committee at future meetings.	
6.3. Assistance to utilities	NSW Health can support water utilities through external contractors.	
6.4. Training	TAFE / OTEN is currently the only training provider approved by NSW Health. Other providers have expressed interest in delivering fluoride training as part of Cert III Water qualifications. NSW Health is also continuing to pursue recognition of prior learning for experienced operators, refresher training and continuing professional development.	
6.5. Legislation	The Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Regulation ends in 2017. NSW Health is proposing to remake the Regulation with no material changes. The Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies will be updated with minor changes to administrative and approval processes. Broader consultation on a more significant update is being	

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	considered for 2017.	
6.6. COHS	The Centre for Oral Health Strategy leads policy on fluoride use general and oral health promotion. The fluoridation program is being incorporated into broader networks across NSW oral health.	
6.7. Correspondence	Two Councils sought funding for replacing aging equipment.	
7. DPI Water update		
7.1. Form 1 approvals	A new supplier of hydrofluosilicic acid is selling to NSW water utilities at a higher strength than existing suppliers. NSW Health is requiring utilities seeking to use the new product to submit a new Form 1 Application to Fluoridate, and receive formal approval to use the new chemical.	
7.2. Commissioning of new plants	No plants pending commissioning at time of meeting.	
8. General business		
8.1. NHMRC review	NHMRC has released the draft information paper on the health effects of water fluoridation. The report covers evidence evaluation only. Conclusions supportive of ongoing water fluoridation. Other issues should be considered by the Fluoride Reference Group in the public statement later in 2017. Nutrient values updated to better define risk of fluorosis to infants on formula.	
8.2. Media issues	Paul Connett, prominent oppose of water fluoridation,	

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	recently visited towns near Bega on the NSW South Coast, generating some local media.	
8.3. Fluoridation WHS	NSW Health to work with SafeWork NSW on Work Health and Safety requirements in Code of Practice.	
9. Other business		

Next meeting TBA, but no later than October 2017.