

WHY A REFERENDUM?

Queensland government has acknowledged that forced fluoridation is unethical mass medication.

A 2003 Queensland Health document “*Queensland Government Position Statement on Water Fluoridation*” states that without express consent of the community, water fluoridation is unethical mass medication and that Referendum guarantees consent of the community.

To view documentation see http://qawf.org/documents/Q_GOVT_POSITION_STATEMENT.pdf
(sourced from Qld Health website 2006)

The current Qld Government was elected with a pre-election promise standing that fluoridation would not be forced on Queenslanders.

In late 2005 Premier Beattie put \$6 million dollars on the table for 5 yrs from 2006 until 2011, to pay Council’s capital costs of fluoridation. This move was to encourage Councils to fluoridate.

In the press release of 16/10/2005 “*Beattie offer incentive to fluoridate water*” the Premier made the promise “*We endorse the use of fluoridation but we won't force it on Queenslanders*” additionally “*we won't be mandating it's compulsory use in Queensland communities*”

To view documentation see <http://qawf.org/documents/BeattieWontForce.pdf>

Anna Bligh, the current but as yet un-elected Premier, has broken this promise.

Old Health Minister had made claims “cannot have fluoride Referendum with a state election”

On 25th Oct 2005 the Queensland Health Minister, Stephen Robertson in a prepared speech in Parliament when referring to fluoridation, claimed “*For the state government to conduct a statewide referendum at the next state election is constitutionally not possible*” In a press release the same day Mr Robertson quoted that the Solicitor General of Queensland “*advises that referenda cannot be held in conjunction with a state election*”

To view documentation see http://qawf.org/documents/Robertson2005_10_25_115.pdf

HOWEVER

A QC’s Legal opinion is that a Referenda asking a question can be combined with a state election

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) on 28 Oct 2005 sought a QC’s legal opinion on this and the legal advice was that as the Referendums Act 1997 provides for two types of Referenda (1) to submit a Bill to electors and (2) a Referendum to submit a question there would be no barrier combining a State Election with a Referendum asking a question (eg. *Do you favour the fluoridation of all urban water supplies throughout the state*)

Survey shows majority of people want a statewide Referendum

In 2005 the LGAQ conducted a survey on whether people were in favour of fluoridation or not, while there was majority support, nearly 70 % of people who responded yes or no, wanted a statewide referendum before fluoridation could occur.

To view documentation see http://qawf.org/documents/Survey_Urban_Water_Supply_Fluoridation.pdf

Queensland Government has circumvented recent attempts to hold Fluoridation Plebiscites in Warwick and in Cooktown

In 2006 Warwick Shire Council requested the State Government pay for the costs of a Fluoridation Plebiscite in Warwick Shire by postal ballot (estimated cost \$70, 000). The Queensland Government agreed, and was locked in, but then stalled the process until it announced in 2007 that Warwick was to be forcibly amalgamated with Stanthorpe Council, thus making the poll untenable.

Cook Shire Council in 2007 notified the Queensland Government of their intent to hold a Fluoridation Plebiscite in Cooktown in conjunction with the March 15th 2008 council elections. The Queensland Government had agreed to run a fluoridation promotion campaign in Cooktown prior to the poll. With the announcement of forced council amalgamations the Queensland Electoral Office took charge of running council elections, councils were not allowed to conduct their own elections as was the normal practice, thus Cook Shire Council was not able to conduct the Plebiscite with the council election making a poll untenable. Warwick and Cook shire Referendums would have been significant test cases to gauge true public opinion.

Queensland Government gave financial assistance to a private body the Australian Dental Association (Qld) to promote fluoridation, but repeatedly refused requests for assistance to help provide a “No” case

In April 2006 Qld Govt financial assistance was approved for the Queensland Dental Association (ADAQ) to promote fluoridation by way of petition, bumper stickers, brochures, pro-fluoride letter writing campaign and upgrading of the ADAQ website.

In February 2006 the then President of the ADAQ had written to Stephen Robertson Qld Health Minister requesting \$200, 000 to promote fluoridation to counter the anti-fluoride lobby.

The Qld Health Ministerial briefing note proposing that funding be provided stated that the *“ ADAQ will also be able to undertake campaigns which include strategies and initiatives which may not be seen as appropriate for a Government department to undertake eg the promotion of letter writing campaigns”*

To view documentation see http://qawf.org/documents/ADAQ_Grant.pdf

On the 12 th Feb 2008 Premier Anna Bligh in Parliament made much of a non-conforming ADAQ Petition of 25,000 signatures (ADAQ had received \$200, 000 from the Qld Govt to assist in doing petition and fluoride promotion). The Premier has made claims of overwhelming public support for fluoridation, yet the surveys that have been done, together total only a few thousand people and one of these surveys was a push poll, using a leading preamble and a leading question. The Premier meanwhile, ignores overwhelming public support for daylight saving, another contentious issue.

If associations who are concerned about documented adverse health effects of water fluoridation were given \$200,000 to do petitions, it is quite possible that many more than 25,000 signatures over the same 2-year time span would be collected. When planning for the Fluoride Plebiscite in Warwick was still in process in 2006 and 2007, Queenslanders Against Water Fluoridation Inc requested equal funding for the “ No” case to match the funding of the “ Yes” case, but Qld Health repeatedly refused.

Two Fluoride Referendums / Plebiscites in recent years have been voted down.

In 2000 a Fluoride Plebiscite was voted down in Clermont (located in Belyando Council in Central Queensland), despite Moranbah which is also in Belyando Council having been fluoridated for more than 30 yrs. Fluoridation of Moranbah’s community water supply had been commenced by Utah, the

American mining company. It is quite possible that if a statewide Queensland Referendum on fluoridation was held, it could also be voted down.

In 2005 a Fluoride Plebiscite in Tenterfield, near the NSW/ Qld border, was voted down 80% to 20%.

Queensland Health System Review 2005 recommended that there be public debate.

The 2005 Queensland Health Systems Review (commonly known as the Forster report) which was done as a consequence of the Bundaberg Hospital - Dr Patel situation, put forward (page 54) that informed education and public debate should be encouraged and that local communities should be provided with options and consequences of their choices.

The actions of the current Queensland government is to deny communities and individuals choice. People have been denied public debate and “*informed education*” has consisted of massive newspaper, radio and television Qld Govt advertising propaganda campaigns falsely claiming that water fluoridation is proven safe.

The Queensland Premier Anna Bligh in December 2007 dictated that water fluoridation was to be mandated on Queensland’s Public water supplies, with fluoride chemicals being added for the purpose of treating or preventing tooth decay. The Queensland government has previously admitted in it’s own documentation that forced fluoridation is unethical mass medication.

Fluoride chemicals are added to water as a medical treatment, to treat people. Water fluoridation is quite different to chlorination to treat water to make water safe to drink and to prevent epidemics of water borne diseases such as Cholera. Water fluoridation is mass medication with chemicals (S6 and S7 poisons) that do not even exist in nature.

Queenslanders should have a say in their own medication, they should be entitled to choice, at the very least by Referendum. Enough Petition signatures will embarrass the government and may get consideration for the government to do the right thing by Queenslanders and allow a say.

**Please support the Petition for a Referendum on Fluoridation.
Printable copies of petition are located at www.qawf.org**

**Authorised Marilyn Haines
on behalf of Queenslanders Against Water Fluoridation Inc www.qawf.org**

**PO BOX 149 Archerfield 4108
phone contact mob 0418 777 112**

24/08/2008