

**The Rotary Club of North Sydney Sunrise asks Parents to help LEAD
the way against LEAD**



In some areas of Sydney up to 1 in 4 children less than 5 years of age have blood lead levels above what is recommended for good health.

If your child has too much lead in their blood something **CAN** be done about it. If you know your child has too much lead, you can find out where the lead is and how to stop it getting into your child. This will help lessen the potential harmful effects of lead, such as learning and behaviour problems or lowered IQ. Most children with too much lead in their blood are never tested. These children often have problems at school and families will never know why. **Take a moment to answer the following questions to see if your child should be tested.**

CHILDREN UP TO 4 YEARS OF AGE ARE MOST AT RISK FROM LEAD

CHILDHOOD LEAD EXPOSURE RISK FACTOR QUESTIONNAIRE

If the answer is **YES** to any of these questions your child may be at risk of an elevated blood lead level - discuss with your doctor the need for a blood lead test.

If your child is aged between 9 months and 4 years, does he or she:	
Live in, or frequently visit, a house* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • built before 1970 with peeling or chipping paint? 	Yes • No •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • built before 1970 with previous or ongoing renovation where old paint (inside or outside) has been burnt or sanded off, or where ceilings, walls or floors have been demolished? 	Yes • No •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • near a lead releasing industry, eg lead mine, lead smelter, battery-recycling plant? 	Yes • No •
(*- House includes day-care centres, pre-schools and homes of babysitters, relatives etc)	
Live with an adult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live with an adult whose job or hobby uses lead? (eg lead mining or smelting, automotive repair, panel-beating, lead lighting, fishing sinker making, electronics, shooting instruction, car-battery service/ repair or manufacture). 	Yes • No •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a brother or sister, housemate or playmate with an elevated blood lead level? 	Yes • No •
Does your child....	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes eat non-food items such as soil or paint? 	Yes • No •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have anaemia due to not enough iron, behaviour problem, learning problem or did they sit up, walk or talk late 	Yes • No •

**** Other groups at risk of lead exposure include**

- Pregnant women and their unborn babies
- People who live in and/or renovate pre 1970 houses (especially children)
- Households where a family member works with lead or uses it in a hobby
- Households who live near a source of lead contamination (e.g lead smelter, market garden once sprayed with lead arsenate, municipal incinerator, car repairer where paint is stripped, battery breaking yard).

If your child is at risk of having a raised blood lead level,
Medicare covers the cost of the test.

Painless blood lead testing is possible through the use of EMLA™ anaesthetic patches, which are available without a prescription from chemists.
The patch must be applied at least one hour before the blood sample is taken.

Remember that the absence of symptoms does NOT take away the need for a blood lead test.

Most children have no symptoms until high lead levels are reached.

A message to doctors

Careful questioning of the patient to identify risk factors, followed by a blood test, is the best way to confirm exposure to lead. **Most cases of lead poisoning show no symptoms.**

If there is a risk factor, a venous blood lead should be done.

Venous blood samples remain the recommended sampling technique. Finger prick, hair and urine testing are not recommended because of the risk of contamination and false positive results. Blood samples can be sent to your chosen pathologist, but it is suggested that parents use larger centres with two or more staff or hospitals. Parents may like to purchase EMLA™ local anaesthetic patches from their local pharmacy and apply this to one or both antecubital fossae one hour prior to blood collection to reduce discomfort.

**For more information GP's and patients can contact:
The LEAD Group Inc - 1800 626 086 or 9716 0014
Website: www.lead.org.au/
[use the "[Contact Us](#)" form to send an email]**



**The Lead Education and Abatement Design Group
Working to eliminate childhood and foetal lead poisoning
by the year 2012 and to protect the environment from lead
ABN: 25 819 463 114**

**The LEAD Group is a not for profit organisation
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(DSEWPC)**

For more information about the **Rotary Club of North Sydney Sunrise** visit
www.rotaryclubofnorthsydney sunrise.org.au/ or the Rotary International website: www.rotary.org/