

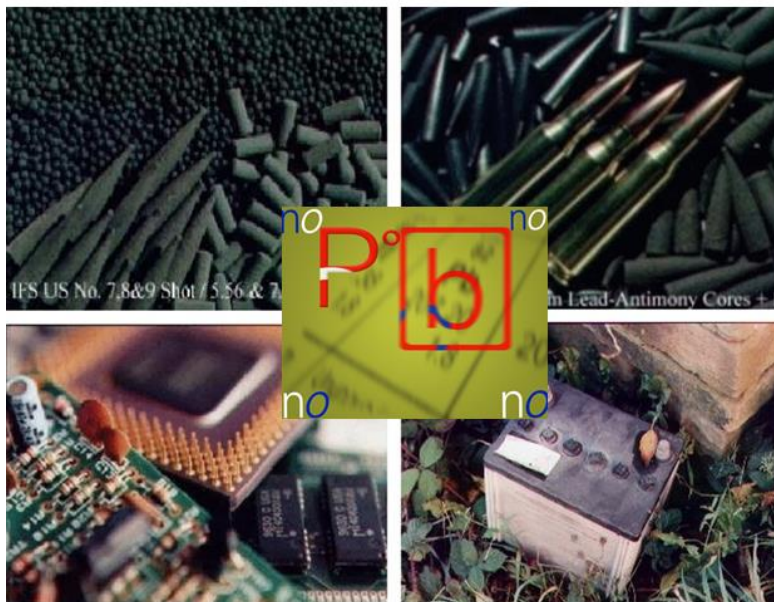


Lead-safety advocacy at ASBB conference, Lead Week of Action Event 2018, Australia

by Elizabeth O'Brien of The LEAD Group

At the Australasian Society for Building Biologists inaugural Environmental Health Conference & Expo in Sydney on Saturday 27th October 2018, Elizabeth O'Brien from The LEAD Group, a health promotion and environmental charity, presented new LEAD Group policy and other information helpful to home-owners, landlords, building biologists and council environmental health officers, as well as being interviewed by fx Medicine.

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If such a ban were in place in Australia, many many “pirate” sinker-makers and bullet-makers would themselves be protected from lead fume and dust exposure in their back-yard operations,



but also their families and their neighbours would be protected, and Council environmental health officers would have more powers to shut down these dangerous home-based activities which generate leaded sinkers and ammunition which contaminate the environment, when non-lead alternatives are available to protect the environment.

The LEAD Group advocates that Australia reduces the lead limit in new residential AND industrial paint from 1000 ppm down to 90 ppm – and thus set a global precedent.

The poster for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2018 features a colorful circular logo on the left with the text "BAN LEAD PAINT". Below the logo are icons for "Learn the Risks", "Call for Action", and "Ban Lead Paint", along with the hashtags #ILPPW2018 and #BanLeadPaint. The central text reads "21-27 October 2018 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2018". Logos for the UN Environment and World Health Organization are at the bottom left. On the right, there is a graphic of a volcano with a red checkmark and the letters "AP" in yellow, labeled "Volcano Art Prize". The background of the poster shows a beach with a large, dark, leaded sinker in the sand.

Elizabeth O'Brien. Lead-Safety Message: The UN & WHO Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP) encourages every country to set a limit of 90 parts per million (ppm) for new paint. As well as announcing Volcano Art Prize winners, The LEAD Group will launch the Australian campaign for this "lead paint ban" during ILPPWA - 21st to 27th October 2018. <https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/gaelp-ban-lead-paint-poster-for-ilppwa-2018/>

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The limit on lead in residential paints in Australia has been 1000 parts per million (ppm) (0.1%) since 1997 but in 2010, Australia set a global precedent by stopping the addition of 15 lead compounds to all industrial paints and inks, bringing the limit on lead in industrial applications into line with that residential limit of 1000 ppm. Because all lead chromates are included in the list of 15 lead pigments that are restricted to a limit of 1000 ppm lead, the Australian legislation is, to my knowledge the first legislation in the world to "ban chromates" in paints and inks – which is excellent because chromates are highly carcinogenic.

But as Gilbert Kuepouo, Research and Education Centre for Development (CREPD), (Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement) Cameroon (via nolead list) wrote on 1/10/2018:

“With the most recent trend in legislation development with maximum of 90 ppm total lead content as regulatory limit, paint from Australia cannot access market in many countries in Asia, Africa, and elsewhere due to its high Total Lead level of 1000 ppm (more than 10 times the currently promoted safe limit of 90 ppm).”



Thus The LEAD Group's call at the ASBB conference, for all paints sold in Australia to comply with the GAELP proposed limit of 90 ppm, by 2020. We look forward to working on this issue together with NICNAS and with our Lead-Safe World Partner: the Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation.

After giving the presentation and while still at the ASBB conference, I was interviewed by Andrew Whitfield-Cook of fx Medicine regarding LEAD Group lead-safety recommendations such as:

- leaded ceiling dust management by contractors who are members of the Australian Dust Removalists Association (ADRA),
- lead poisoning prevention in Australia compared to USA & Germany and the importance of repeated blood lead surveys of all ages,
- x-ray fluorescence (XRF) bone lead testing, as the best way to determine the body lead burden, OR repeat blood lead testing when there's no bone XRF machines in your country
- the brilliance of California's Proposition 65 legislation for encouraging manufacturers to eliminate lead in their products, such as lead foil on wine bottles, and how this legislation has benefited every country that trades into or out of California, etc.



Andrew Whitfield-Cook of fx Medicine, and Elizabeth O'Brien, The LEAD Group Inc

See the full video at <https://www.facebook.com/fxmedicine.au/videos/286310995553509/>