

LEAD *Action* NEWS

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The newsletter of The LEAD (Lead Education and Abatement Design) Group Inc.

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~~ Grandma Lead Wisdom ~~

A Message from Grandma Lead

Hi everyone!

It's great to connect with you for our first *LEAD Action News* of 2024.

We certainly hit the ground running this year.

I visited Broken Hill (more on that next edition) to meet with Frances Boreland, Aaron Reuben, Semitj Hopcraft, Jenny Rowbotham, Adam Forster, Chris Chindanya and Ghislaine "Gigi" Barbe, and to get a first-hand look at what life is like in the lead-mining town.

We've made our LEAD Test Kits free to Indigenous households to ensure that the households in lead-affected towns can be tested and to remove the financial barrier (<https://leadsafeworld.com/indigenoukits>).

We've also been busy writing to government ministers to raise awareness, propose our involvement in educational campaigns, and request funding to help cover our costs.

In this edition of *LEAD Action News*, we're bringing a range of articles to you that address very real risks of lead-exposure - from vaping, to lead-contaminated baby foods recalled in the US, chocolate, industrial paints, and so much more! Read on!

I'd love to hear your thoughts, so write back and let me know.

Elizabeth O'Brien (aka Grandma Lead)

BSc (Syd), Grad Dip Health Education

Lead Scientist and Lead Advisor, The LEAD Group Inc.

Winner of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Award for Outstanding Service to the Environment; and two times nominee for Australian of the Year



Photo: #GrandmaLead and Grandson by Alex Jewson

VAP Entry <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-GL>

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Can You Help?

As a charity, grants make the difference between running on “the smell of an oily rag” with skeleton staff to employing a team to create bigger change to prevent lead poisoning by helping households all around our country.

We'd like to ask if you could help by writing to your local federal member of parliament (MP)?

We've drafted a letter where you can add your personal story - we recommend doing this so that your MP sees the human part of the lead story.

You can download a copy of the letter here <https://leadsafeworld.com/sampleMPletter>, personalise it and send it to your MP.

How do you work out who your MP is? Easy, [click here](https://leadsafeworld.com/findmympp) (https://leadsafeworld.com/findmympp) and type in your postcode.

Here's the draft letter –

Dear [MP's Name],

I am writing to share my personal experience with lead exposure and to advocate for continued funding for The LEAD Group Inc. charity.

[Insert personal story here regarding lead and initial contact with The LEAD Group Inc. charity]

Ms. O'Brien, Lead Scientist and co-Founder of The LEAD Group, provided invaluable assistance by [insert story]. Her expertise and support are unparalleled, and I can attest to the importance of The LEAD Group's services in providing reliable information and guidance on lead exposure and contamination prevention and management, when I was unable to obtain this breadth of information from any other sources, let alone from a single source.

Since its establishment in 1992, The LEAD Group has a long-standing history of advocating for federal lead-safety policy and has had significant success in inspiring national lead-safety initiatives such as the reductions in the government's blood lead action levels in 1993 and 2015, the doctor education program of 1994, lead paint education campaign of the mid-late 1990s, the elimination of leaded petrol in 2002, and of lead paint in 2021. However, I am concerned to learn that the organisation is

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facing financial challenges and may run out of funds by the end of May 2024. I understand that The LEAD Group has requested an ad hoc grant from the Treasurer to achieve their goals of helping the federal government to finally create a national lead-safety policy worthy of the world's largest lead exporter and providing LEAD Group Kits free to the most at-risk Australians (especially Indigenous families).

Without adequate funding, Ms. O'Brien and The LEAD Group may be unable to continue their vital work in making the world lead-safe one family at a time. This could have serious implications for individuals and families like mine who rely on their guidance for testing and reducing lead exposure.

I recently discovered that The LEAD Group's third application in the past year for seed funding to PM Anthony Albanese has not received any response. Therefore, I am reaching out to seek your support in advocating for the \$250,000 funding request for The LEAD Group. This funding is essential to fund the involvement of Technical Advisory Board Members of The LEAD Group in working with the government to develop a National Lead Safety Policy and providing LEAD Group Kits to local professionals who can assist the most vulnerable Australians, especially Indigenous communities.

I urge you to consider raising questions in Parliament and issuing a media release to highlight the urgent need for funding for The LEAD Group. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated and would help ensure the continuation of essential services provided by The LEAD Group.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I have included contact details for The LEAD Group at the end of this letter and am available to discuss any further details at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Details]

Contact The LEAD Group directly -

Ms Elizabeth O'Brien, Lead Scientist and Lead Advisor, The LEAD Group Inc.

(P) (02) 9716 0014 or (M) 0431 184 933

(E) info@lead.org.au

(W) www.LeadSafeWorld.com and www.Lead.org.au

Volcano Art Prize - entries are open

Each year during International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, we announce the winners of our art competition, the Volcano Art Prize.



**Did you know that you can submit now
for our 2024 prizes?**

That's right!

You can enter all year...

And, best still, entry is free for all children
and all adults from non-OECD countries.

For everyone else, it is just AUD\$10.

**Have you got a lead-safety message
that you'd like to share?**

Could your child's preschool, kindergarten or school be interested in taking part?

Please feel free to share these details with them. If there's no time during class time, perhaps it could go in the newsletter...

- Volcano Art Prize is an art competition held by The LEAD Group Inc.
- It is open to all age groups
- Entry is free for children and anyone living in non-OECD countries
- Entries can be drawings, paintings, poetry, video, performances... anything creative!
- Prizes include cash prizes and mugs from our sponsors, www.PictureProducts.com.au

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Some of Our 2023 VAP Winners...



We were excited to see some of the winners from Creative Einstein with their mugs and certificates on Facebook. Check the post out [here](https://leadsafeworld.com/VAP-creativeeinstein) (<https://leadsafeworld.com/VAP-creativeeinstein>).



The Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group Inc.
Such a lot of excellent young artists you have there Ms Ju! I can't wait to see the 2024 Volcano Art Prize entries and start uploading them to www.volcanoartprize.com for everyone to see!

"One of the highlights of the year is putting the VAP winning entries onto mugs and creating certificates for each of the entrants." ~ Grandma Lead



Children - Time to Check Blood Lead Levels (BLLs)

It was in the early 1900s that two doctors from Queensland (John Lockhart Gibson and Alfred Jefferis Turner) made the link between leaded household paint and lead poisoning in young children (Symeonides *et al* 2020, *Pre-school child blood lead levels in a population-derived Australian birth cohort: the Barwon Infant Study*, <https://leadsafeworld.com/preschool-BLL>). Gibson and Jefferis Turner also found that rainwater tanks were a source of lead exposure.

It wasn't until late last century that epidemiological studies showed that the effects lead had on impairing child development occurred at much lower levels than previously thought.

In our Model National Policy, our research showed:

*According to Dr Valerie Hickey, of the World Bank: "UNICEF and Pure Earth [July 2020] estimate that **1 in 3 children** – or up to 800 million globally – **have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per deciliter [$\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$]** when any lead disrupts a child's neurological development and can cause premature death" (02 February 2023). Further to this, "it was estimated in 2013 that a **blood lead level of 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ was associated with a one-point loss in IQ score**, confirming that **there is no lower safe threshold of exposure**" (Taylor and Lanphear 2020)....*

*Even **maternal blood lead levels below 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ will decrease birth weight and gestational age in the same way that smoking during pregnancy does** and "a 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ increase in second trimester lead [is] associated with lower birth weight and pre-term birth" (Rabito *et al* 2014). (<https://leadsafeworld.com/model-national-policy>)*

This is part of why we call for a *National Blood Lead Survey* of all ages, including babies and children from 6 months of age. Children 6-48 months old are at highest risk for lead exposure due to mouthing behaviours, pica, more efficient absorption, smaller size, and larger body burden.

While we are waiting for this, The LEAD Group recommends that all children above the age of crawling have their blood lead levels tested. There is an exception - and that is for children who are in lead mining and smelting (including lead-acid battery recycling/secondary smelting) towns, and near general aviation airports. In these cases, blood lead levels should be assessed for children as young as 4 months old due to the lead inhalation pathway.

One such area is Broken Hill.

West NSW Local Health District Public Health Unit (2022) published their *Lead Report Summary 2021: Broken Hill Children Less than 5 Years Old* which identified that there are substantial differences between blood lead levels of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children.

As can be seen in the graph below (from this report), non-Aboriginal children (red) represent a greater proportion of children with blood lead levels below 5 µg/dL.

Whereas, in every other category, the blood lead levels of Aboriginal children (blue) exceed the levels of their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Blood lead level categories by Aboriginal status for children aged 1 to <5 years, Broken Hill, 2021

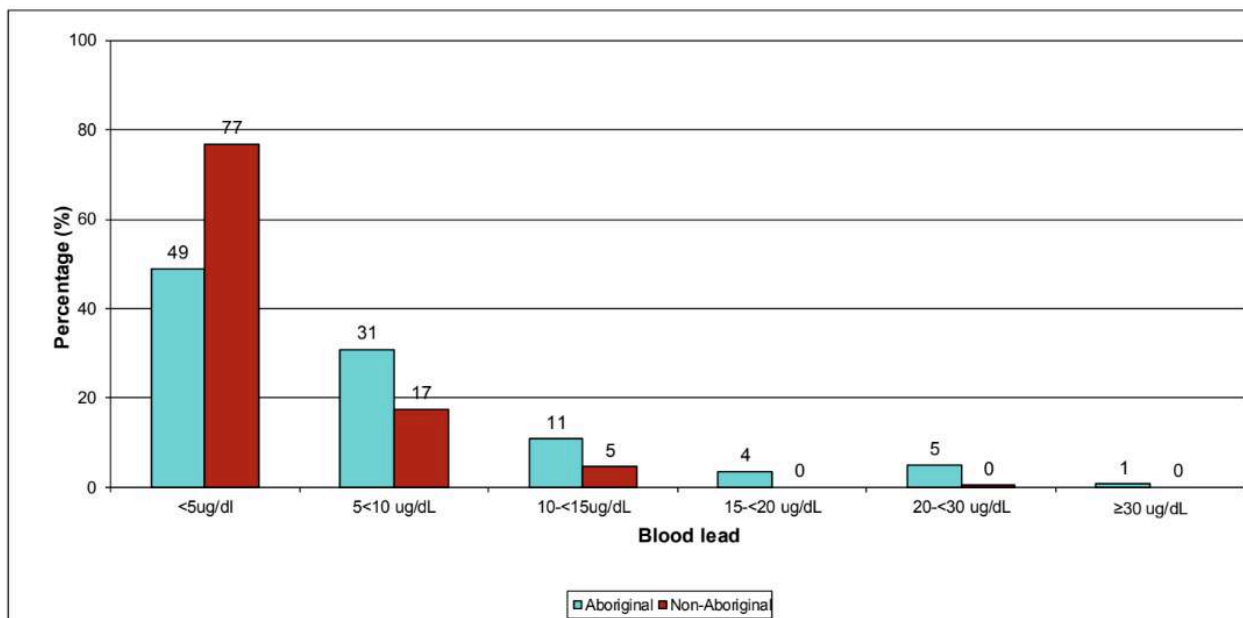


Figure 8. Comparison of Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal aged 1 to <5 years by blood lead categories (2021).

Lead, as we know, is detrimental to health - in the short-term and in the long-term. Research published in 2018 made the point that “**Millions of Americans now entering midlife and old age were exposed to high levels of lead, a neurotoxin, as children**” (Reuben 2018, *Childhood Lead Exposure and Adult Neurodegenerative Disease*; you can read the article here <https://leadsafeworld.com/Reuben>).

There is so much that needs to be done to protect our children, and in turn our future - and the future of our beautiful planet.

There's an ancient Chinese saying that goes like this -

*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.*

And, while we wait for governing bodies to get on board with lead awareness, lead poisoning prevention and more proactive measures, as outlined in our Model National Policy...

YOU can take action now.



See your GP/doctor to arrange a blood test to assess lead levels.

You can also ask for a “blood lead series” which is a referral for several blood lead tests, so you can monitor your child's progress as you address lead in the environment and other sources of lead exposure.

It's also important to be aware that lead persists in indoor dust, soil, ceiling dust, sediments and so on until it is removed. This is where our Kits come into play - you can test and we can help you address lead in your environment. (You can find them here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-test>)

So, while lead persists, we should too!

- 🚩 Contact your local, state and federal member of parliament to create awareness and request action.
- 🚩 Tell your friends, family, childcare centres, schools.
- 🚩 Create petitions to create change.

#bloodleadlevels #protectourchildren #testforleadNOW #leadpersistsSODOWE

Plumbophobia

While lead exposure can lead to serious health problems such as brain damage, developmental problems, and decreased IQ...

Plumbophobia can also adversely affect your health!

Plumbophobia is the fear of lead and it can also take a toll on our mental and physical health.

Studies have shown that excessive stress and anxiety can lead to a host of health issues such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and weakened immune system.

This is why at The LEAD Group we choose to empower you.

Don't let the fear of lead exposure control you.

- See your doctor and test blood lead levels of the family to determine if there's any problems.
- Take control of the situation by avoiding scare tactics aimed at selling products.
- Educate yourself on ways to reduce your risk of lead exposure.
- Adopt healthy coping mechanisms to manage stress.
- Test dust, soil, paint and drinking water in your home as these deliver a whopping 99% of child lead exposure.
- Practising mindfulness can make a big difference.



@theleadgroup



Let's break the cycle and take informed action instead of getting caught up in the panic.

👵 Grandma Lead advises:

Spend zero time worrying and 100% of the time taking informed action on lead.

DO YOU HAVE
PLUMBOPHOBIA?



#Plumbophobia #LeadSafety #MentalHealth

#LeadSafeWorld #lead #leadpoisoning #leadpoisoningprevention #theLEADgroup #GrandmaLead

RECALLED

WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree (All Lots)



Weis Cinnamon Apple Sauce (Lot: 05023:28)



Schnucks Apple Sauce with Cinnamon (Lots: 05023:19; 09023:22; and 09023:24)



US RECALL: Baby Food Pouches

In November 2023, the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) along with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) were investigating links between “Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree pouches” and reports of elevated blood lead levels.

The products were manufactured in Ecuador and were sold under the brands:

- WanaBana
- Weis
- Schnucks

It was clear that the likely culprit was cinnamon.

We're still keen to see what other countries are doing about this - including Australia and New Zealand.

👤 **My advice is -**

If you've got any store-bought pureed cinnamon apple products OR cinnamon porridge food pouches containing cinnamon from Sri Lanka, keep them safely out of reach of children until your state or territory food safety agency has tested and declared them safe in Australia.

If you've regularly fed your children these cinnamon-containing baby food pouches, go to your GP and ask for a blood lead series and organise for the blood to be collected at a public hospital pathology clinic.

The US FDA says that most children have no obvious immediate symptoms, so don't wait, get your child blood lead tested if they've eaten any cinnamon-containing baby foods.

Read more here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-applesauce> and check the next page for updates.



February 6, 2024

Ecuadorian officials in Agencia Nacional de Regulación, Control y Vigilancia Sanitaria (ARCSA) have reported that Carols Aguilera of Ecuador, the processor of the ground cinnamon supplied by Negasmart to Austrofoods and later used in the recalled apple cinnamon products, is

the likely source of contamination and is not in operation at this time. Additionally, according to ARCSA, the unprocessed cinnamon sticks used in related products were sourced from Sri Lanka and were sampled by ARCSA and found to have no lead contamination. ARCSA's investigation and legal proceedings to determine the ultimate responsibility for the contamination are still ongoing.

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February 13, 2024

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health is conducting case finding efforts in collaboration with state and local health departments. CDC's case definition for state partners includes a blood lead level of 3.5 µg/dL or higher measured within 3 months

after consuming a recalled WanaBana, Schnucks, or Weis brand fruit puree product after November 2022. As of February 9, CDC has received reports from 101 confirmed cases, 284 probable cases, and 37 suspected cases for a total of 422 cases from 44 different states through their reporting structure. For more information, please visit CDC's page to review their case reporting methodology and findings.

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March 13, 2024

To date, FDA has reviewed 90 confirmed complaints/reports of adverse events potentially linked to recalled product. Confirmed complainants, or people for whom a complaint or adverse event was submitted and met FDA's complainant definition, are between zero and 53 years of age and the median age is one year old.

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#GrandmaLead #TheLEADGroup #LeadPoisoning #LeadPoisoningPrevention #applesauce #cinnamon

Grandma Lead Wisdom

We love getting your questions! Here are a couple of questions Grandma Lead has recently answered.

Q) I have some jewellery that I worry may contain lead as it is very old. I would love to get it tested, however there are over 30 pieces I'd need tested. I was wondering if you do XRF testing and if not, can you recommend anywhere that does?



A) As far as I'm aware, there are only three options for XRF testing in Australia. If you were to become a LEAD Group member (\$10 per annum at <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-member>) you could get a discount on screening, by XRF testing of heavy metals, Portable XRF Services in Perth www.pxrf.com.au (ph 08 9321 2830).

Clients have told me about the other two options but can't recommend them as I haven't used their services. Laboratory for Materials Analysis & Testing Services Pty Ltd (Melbourne VIC) www.lmats.com.au, phone 03 9399 9199. Healthy Homes and Gardens (Bicton WA) www.HealthyHomesandGardens.com.au, phone (08) 9321 2830.



Q) Hello, does Lead Safe World send either emailed or posted lead testing kits outside of Australia? I am located in the United States and am looking for an at-home lead testing kit to test my chickens' eggs to make sure they are safe to consume.

A) Thanks for your question. Sadly due to insurance restrictions we can't sell any LEAD Group Kits to USA or Canada but due to import customs restrictions you also can't post eggs to our lab in Australia (see the info from our site pasted in below).

You'll need to find a lab in the US to test your backyard eggs for lead and I'll send you my Info Pack on Poultry and Lead which will hopefully inspire you to also find a lab that tests chicken-run soil; any paint on the coop; if the water bowl is galvanised - drinking water (collect it at the end of a day in the bowl in the sun); and even commercial chicken feed - in case US regulations on lead in stockfeeds is as lax as Australia's.

All the best and please let me know how you go.



Find out more: <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-outsideAus>

With preventing lead exposure one of our major aims, we wanted to bring you a service to meet your needs.

Let's face it, there is only so much "general information" that is helpful... and that is why we wanted to create the opportunity for you to get advice tailored to your situation, the opportunity to ask about whatever it is that you want to know and get unbiased advice...

Introducing the Grandma Lead Advice Call!

Connect with Elizabeth O'Brien, our lead expert of over 30 years, via video call.

✔ Her advice is all about finding the best solutions for YOUR lead concerns.

No affiliate links, just genuine guidance rooted in extensive experience.

👉 Learn more and book your call – <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-advice>



- 🤔 Not sure what to test? 📋
- 👩 Need guidance on sampling spots?
- 🔬 Curious about sample collection techniques?
- 🔍 Seeking solutions for lead findings?
- 🧠 Want facts instead of social media horror stories?
- 🩺 Concerned about elevated blood lead levels?

What will it cost you?

\$60 per 15-minute interval. Just pay for the time you need! We're committed to ethical billing practices to ensure you get precisely the guidance you require.

Don't let lead concerns linger - Grandma Lead's got you covered!

#TheLEADGroup #LeadSafeWorld #LeadPoisoningPrevention #LeadPoisoning #GrandmaLead #Advice

Action on Leaded Aviation Fuel in the US... and Australia

Did you know...?

That in the US, leaded fuel for motor vehicles was banned nearly 25 years ago and yet -

“The use of leaded avgas [aviation gas/fuel] persists in approximately 170,000 piston-engine aircraft spread across some 20,000 airports nationwide. Emissions from these aircraft are responsible for about 70% of lead released into the atmosphere.” ✈️



Photo: Two Planes by Dennis Leight
VAP entry <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-two-planes>

The US EPA recently came to a decision after a community petition urging emission standards to reduce lead pollution from these aircraft, impacting children and causing severe health issues.

Over 5 million, including 360,000+ children, reside near these sites, facing heightened lead exposure risks. “Most general aviation airports with the highest lead emissions are located in communities of color.”

🌐 Get further details (Fitzgerald 2023 EPA Issues Endangerment Finding for Leaded Aviation Gas) <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-aviation-fuel>

Closer to home, the Australian government is currently consulting with stakeholders on this very topic... and has produced a Green Paper to which people can respond.

✈️ We've sent through our submission urging the government to consider the health of communities living near general aviation airports as well as pilots and refuelling staff.

🌐 Find the Green Paper here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-avgas>

#EPA #LeadAviationGasoline #LeadPollution #PublicHealth #TheLEADGroup #LeadPoisoningPrevention #AirQuality #Earthjustice #ProtectingCommunities

Donate: Make a Meaningful Impact with Just \$10!

At The LEAD Group, we're dedicated to safeguarding communities from the dangers of lead exposure. Through partnerships, donations, and kit sales, we fund our critical work to provide support and resources to those in need.

Despite our shoestring budget, we remain dedicated to our mission to make the world lead-safe. Part of this is to ensure that all Australians have access to our services. To this end, we've made LEAD Testing Kits available for free to individuals and families who may otherwise be unable to afford them.

Now, we're reaching out to you for support.

Imagine the difference we could make if every reader of this newsletter raised just \$100.

With a collective effort, we could easily surpass our fundraising goal of \$3500.

And the best part? You only need to ask 10 people to donate \$10 each to help us achieve this milestone.

Your generous tax-deductible donation will directly impact those who rely on our services for lead testing and prevention. Together, we can provide free kits to those who need them most, ensuring their safety and well-being.

So, are you ready to make a meaningful difference with just \$10? Join us in our mission to create a lead-safe world for all.

Donate today and spread the word: [https://leadsafeworld.com/donate\\$100each](https://leadsafeworld.com/donate$100each)

Thank you for your unwavering support! 🙏

Team-LEAD Group

PS Feel free to share that link on socials to help us raise much needed funds!

#donate #freeKitsforthoseinneed #leadtestingsaveslives #leadpoisoningprevention

**CAN YOU
ASK 10 PEOPLE
TO DONATE \$10?**



Partnership with The LEAD Group

During 2023 *International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action*, we were honoured to have the following companies become or renew their Partnership with us.

When there is so much action that can be taken to make the world lead-safe, having like-minded partners reinforces the sense that **we can do this** because we are doing it together.

Would you like to partner with us?

We'd love to have you on board. There are lots of benefits to being a partner - click here to read more. <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-partnerwithus>



Creative Einstein, under the leadership of Alice Ju, boasts a team of experienced educators with a remarkable track record. Their students consistently achieve outstanding results in OC and Selective High School Placement exams and excel in NAPLAN and ICAS competitions. What truly sets them apart is

their unwavering commitment to lead safety. Creative Einstein students have made an exceptional impact on The LEAD Group's lead safety photo/film competition, the Volcano Art Prize. By using lead-free art materials for their submissions, they've not only showcased their creativity and dedication but have also significantly contributed to lead safety awareness. In fact, Creative Einstein students have collectively submitted more entries than all other schools worldwide. Creative Einstein have also established a Facebook Group rich with free educational resources (worksheets, vocabulary, video lessons, exam information and advice, etc) for parents of school aged students with the vision of creating a community of well-informed parents to support their children navigate through milestones at school. Join the group Parent support: NAPLAN, OC, Selective <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-partnerCE>



TEST MY PROPERTY

MOULD | WATER DAMAGE | EMF

Stefan Irwanto is a Biomedical Engineer, an Indoor Environmental Professional (IEP), and the founder of **Test My Property**. He utilises The LEAD Group's testing kits to assess lead contamination. With extensive experience in air quality monitoring and a deep understanding of environmental toxins, Stefan is dedicated to ensuring that every property is free

from lead, and other potential hazards, such as mould, poor indoor air quality, VOCs and EMF. Stefan is a certified IICRC Water Damage Restoration and Applied Microbial Remediation Technician. His mission is to reduce the impact of environmental toxins one property at a time. <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-partnerTMP>



GLOBAL VALVE TECHNOLOGY

Global Valve Technology takes the lead in ensuring your water safety. With our state-of-the-art Zero Lead Water Meters, including advanced Digital Water Meters (NBloT and LoRaWAN), we're committed to eliminating the risk of lead exposure in your water. The New York Times reminds us that no

exposure to lead is entirely safe, as even low levels can impact a child's intelligence, learning ability, and behaviour. While Australia is trailing behind North America and Europe in the removal of lead content from our water, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has set the course for change. Plumbing products, including water meters, will soon be limited to a maximum allowable lead content of just 0.25%. Why wait possibly a decade or more to replace your old, high-lead water meter? Reach out to your water company now and discuss your concerns. They're dedicated to your well-being. Make the safe choice with Global Valve Technology.

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Mudgee Region Health Alliance is an alliance of medicos, vets, nurses and scientists all supporting the fight against Bowdens Lead mine. Mudgee Region Action Group (formerly Lue Action Group) was formed in 2011 to ensure development proposed for the region is undertaken responsibly, and in a way that protects the community and the environment.

Mudgee Region Action Group (MRAG) is opposed to the Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd proposal for the development of lead zinc and silver mine at Lue, on the basis that the mine would have unacceptable impacts on the Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos and Lue communities, people and surrounding environment in the short, medium and long term. Please support the work of these Mudgee Region groups by signing the petition at <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-partnerMRHA> and sharing the link on Social Media.

Established 1994



Vinco is an industry leader in stainless steel tapware for residential and commercial use. Their commitment to delivering health and well-being to Australian communities and businesses is evident in their high manufacturing standards. Vinco stands out

for its focus on lead-free, brass-free tapware products, ensuring the safety of your drinking water. Their stainless steel tapware eliminates the need for costly additional filters and maintenance, making it a more cost-effective choice. When shopping for tapware, remember to prioritise lead-free and brass-free options, compliance with Australian standards, and overall cost-effectiveness. Vinco offers a safer and economically sound solution for your tapware needs. <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-partnerV>

What Should I Test for Lead?

Curious about lead exposure and its impact on your life?

Well, guess what?

We've got a solution that's as easy as ABC!



Photo: "Sydney Analytical Laboratories lead tester" by Lance Smith

VAP entry <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-SAL>



Introducing our Quiz -

Our quiz was crafted using Grandma Lead wisdom! She draws together *decades* of knowledge to make your lead journey smoother and easier.

Is Lead a Concern for You?

Wondering if lead is knocking on your door? Dive into our 10-question quiz to find out how, what and if you should be testing for lead.

Your Next Steps Await

It's not just about knowing the issue exists – it's about tackling it head-on! Discover golden nuggets of wisdom, practical tips, and actionable steps to lead-safe your world.

Ready to level up your lead knowledge?

Take the quiz now at <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-leadquiz> and set yourself on the path to a lead-free, healthier life.

#LeadAwarenessQuiz #LeadSafeliving #TakeTheQuiz #GrandmaLead #LeadExposure #LeadPoisoning #LeadSafety #LeadPoisoningPrevention



@theleadgroup



What Should You Do if Exposed to Lead?

WORRIED ABOUT LEAD?



If you're worried about lead, the best thing to do is to put your mind at ease by testing to find out what you're dealing with.

Lead can be found in many places in our homes... and after over 3 decades of working with lead and lead abatement, here are the steps that we recommend.

STEP 1

First, see your doctor to organise blood testing to find out if you or your family have been exposed to lead.

If lead is detected in the blood, it's time to test your home or other areas where you spend time.

STEP 2

Test! Get your LEAD Group Kit (<https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-test>) to test –

- The dust in your home with a surface dust wipe
- The water from the tap you drink from
- The soil that you grow vegetables or herbs in, or that your children, pets or chooks access
- The toys that your children or pets suck on - especially if they are old or imported
- Any eggs that you eat from your chooks

STEP 3

If you aren't sure what to do, then reach out to us here <https://leadsafeworld.com/contact-TLG> or book a call with Grandma Lead (<https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-advice>).

Remember, prevention is key when it comes to lead poisoning. Take action today to protect your family's health and well-being.

#leadpoisoningprevention #leadexposureprevention #lead #grandmalead #leadtesting

The Perfect Predator

“Lead Poisoning... The Perfect Predator”

This video is a *must-watch* as it tells the stories of children who have been lead poisoned and how easily it can be prevented.

In a nutshell, the best course of action is to test your home...

- ✓ Testing (or screening) your home is a preventative action -
- ✓ And better to test BEFORE anyone has been poisoned.
- ✓ “Prevention is better than cure”, right?! 🔥

As Kelly J. Mikullitz, attorney, points out in the video, “testing properties prevents the exposure altogether... [lead poisoning is] 100% preventable...”

She says that in the jurisdictions which require screening of homes for lead, there’s been a huge reduction in the lead levels of children “because we’re not waiting until a child is poisoned to find the problems. This is a predator in your home...”

Check it out here 🖱️ <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-perfpred>



#lead #leadpoisoning #leadpoisoningprevention #leadsafeworld #TheLEADGroup #surfacedustwipes #bloodleadlevels #LEADGroupstestkit #leadtesting #leadpoisoningtheprecpredator #GrandmaLead

Vaping, Smoking, and Lead

Vaping and Smoking Both Lead Your Health to the Gutter.



Protect your health from lead and radioactive polonium-210 which decays to lead plus multiple other toxics by neither smoking nor vaping, says Grandma Lead.

When you come across statements like “vapes or e-cigs, they're far less harmful than cigarettes and can help you quit smoking for good” (National Health Service [NHS] UK, 2022), it's no wonder that people consider trying e-cigarettes, also known as vapes. But the crucial question is whether this claim holds true...

We wanted you to have the facts about the very real dangers of vaping and smoking, so put this post together. You can read it here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-vaping>.



Photo: “Vaping and Smoking Both Lead Your Health to the Gutter” by Elizabeth O'Brien
Adapted from VAP entry <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-VAPvaping>

#LeadExposure #HealthyChoices #ClearTheAir #LeadPoisoning #LeadSafety #LeadAwareness
#TheLEADGroup #PreventionIsKey #LeadPoisoningPrevention #GrandmaLead #vaping #smoking

Calling All Volunteers

Are you seeking a way to make a meaningful impact in your community?

Consider volunteering at The LEAD Group!

Our charity is dedicated to promoting lead poisoning prevention and management, and we welcome individuals who are passionate about creating safer and healthier environments for all.

With a variety of volunteer opportunities available, there's a place for you to contribute your skills and time, whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out.

**VOLUNTEER WITH
THE LEAD GROUP**



Yes! You can read that as: we can probably create a position that matches your skills!

Volunteering with The LEAD Group offers a chance to be part of something truly meaningful and to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families affected by lead exposure.

By joining our team, you'll have the opportunity to engage in important work that directly supports our mission of creating a lead-safe world where everyone can thrive.

And, we're able to offer "working from home" arrangements - so you don't need to be in Sydney to join the team.

Ready to get involved?

Contact us today to learn more about volunteering opportunities and how you can play a vital role in our efforts. Together, we can make a difference and create positive change in our communities. >> Email us at: info@lead.org.au or call Elizabeth on +61 2 9716 0014.

#volunteer #makeadifference #leadsafeworld #leadpoisoningprevention #JOINUS

2023 ILPPWA Lead Experts Q&A Panel

As part of *International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 2023*, we hosted an expert Q&A Panel to talk about lead and answer your questions.

Protecting families from lead exposure was a hot topic on the live Lead Expert Q&A Panel.

Lead exposure is a silent danger that can affect the health and well-being of all organisms on earth including adults and children but especially foetuses and young children.

On our Q&A panel, our experts shared valuable insights on how to safeguard families from lead exposure.

Our panellists were:

- Professor Richard Banati
- Elizabeth O'Brien (Grandma Lead)
- Tim Pye
- Ananda Card
- Brian Arndt

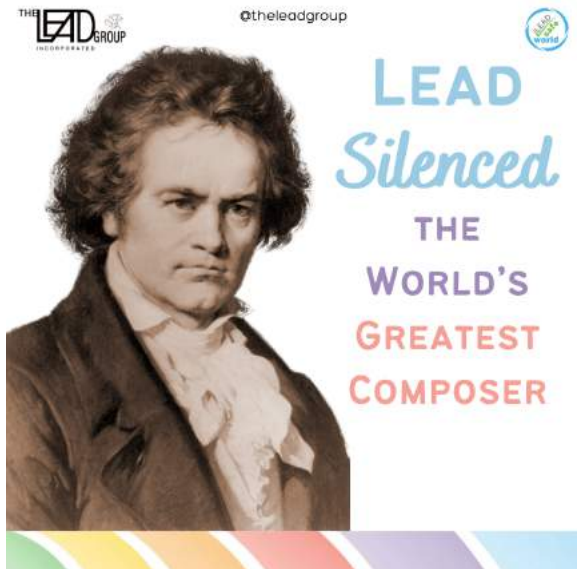


Missed our Lead Experts Q&A Panel?

Watch the replay here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-replay>

#LeadExposure #HealthyChoices #LeadPoisoning #LeadSafety #LeadAwareness #TheLEADGroup
#PreventionIsKey #LeadPoisoningPrevention #GrandmaLead

What do Beethoven and Lead Have in Common?



In 1827, Ludwig van Beethoven died at the age of 56.

He suffered many ailments in his short life - and these included stomach cramps, deafness, dramatic mood swings and towering rages his whole adult life, amongst others.






25 years before his death, he wrote a letter to his brothers with the following request:

After my death, if Dr. Schmidt is still alive, ask him in my name to discover my disease, and attach this written document to his account of my illness... (HRI, 2000).

Recent testing of Beethoven's hair and skull fragments revealed that indeed the culprit was lead.

How did this happen?

Here are some of the possible sources of his lead exposure:

-  Fish from a river downstream from lead mines;
-  Wine from his leaded pewter goblet;
-  A lifetime of medical treatments (which at that time were often sweetened with sugar of lead);
-  Holding a leaded pencil in his mouth and resting the other end on the piano so he could "hear" the sound vibrations; and
-  Plus all the usual lead sources of his era, lead-based sweeteners in wine, lead pewter dinnerware and utensils, in the leading of windows, in candles, in water pipes, in paint.

Beethoven also used his saliva-wetted finger to make beautiful noises on the mechanically-spinning different sized lead crystal bowl (possibly also lead-painted) rims of a musical instrument he loved to play called the armonica, before his symptoms began.

#lead #leadpoisoning #beethoven #AskGrandmaLead #TheLEADGroup #leadsafeworld #healthyliving #leadpoisoningprevention

Share Your Feedback

🗣️ Have you used our services?

We're looking for your feedback. 👁️

Can you spare a moment to share your thoughts through our feedback form?

Your insights guide our efforts in lead poisoning prevention and help us to provide services and products that meet your needs.

Complete the form here: <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-thoughts>

Share the love... and win a prize!?!

As you know, reviews are often the deciding factor as to whether or not we use a service or product... We all check out reviews and want to know all about what others have experienced.

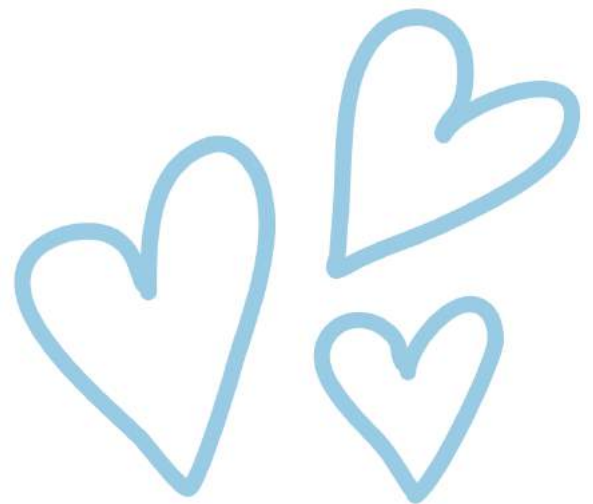
So, we're wanting to encourage you to share about your experience with The LEAD Group.

We'll be on the lookout for your reviews on Google and other social media platforms...

🏆 AND we'll be awarding prizes! (Be sure you tag us using #TheLEADGroup)

Your voice matters, and your input could win you a special reward.

Let's collaborate to safeguard our communities and create a lead safe world!

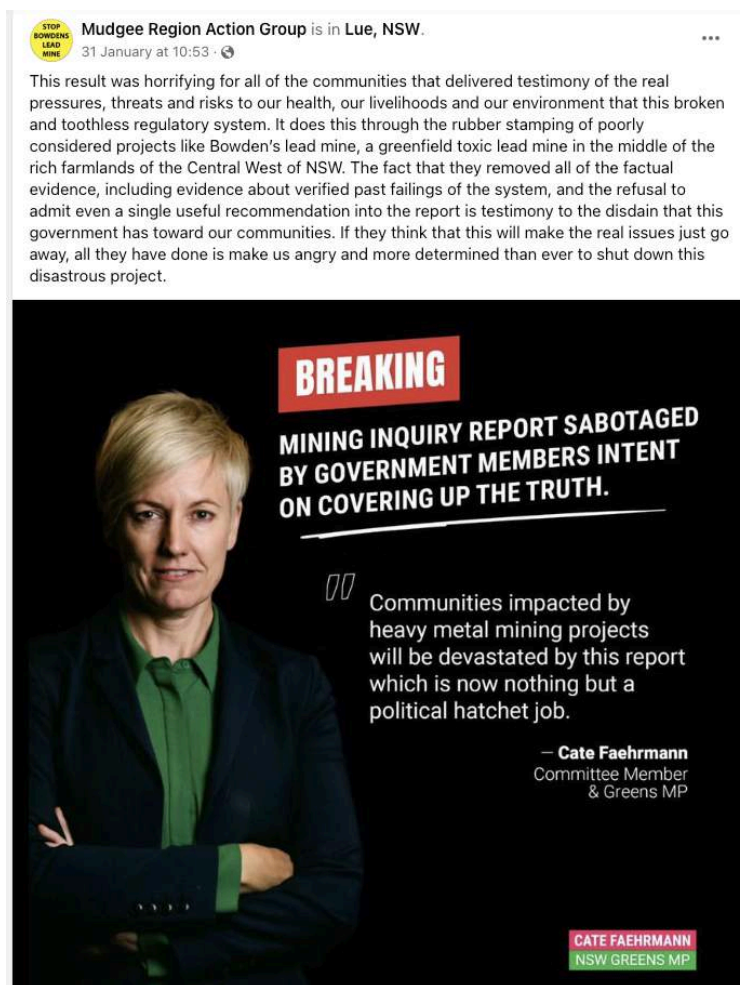


#reviews #lead #leadpoisoning #GrandmaLead #TheLEADGroup #leadpoisoningprevention #leadsafeworld

Bowden Lead Mine Update

The Mudgee Region Action Group is opposed to the Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd proposal for the development of lead zinc and silver mine at Lue due to the impacts on the Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos and Lue communities, people and surrounding environment in the short, medium and long term.

They posted an update, which you can see here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-MRAGupdate>



STOP BOWDEN'S LEAD MINE Mudgee Region Action Group is in Lue, NSW. 31 January at 10:53 · 🌐

This result was horrifying for all of the communities that delivered testimony of the real pressures, threats and risks to our health, our livelihoods and our environment that this broken and toothless regulatory system. It does this through the rubber stamping of poorly considered projects like Bowden's lead mine, a greenfield toxic lead mine in the middle of the rich farmlands of the Central West of NSW. The fact that they removed all of the factual evidence, including evidence about verified past failings of the system, and the refusal to admit even a single useful recommendation into the report is testimony to the disdain that this government has toward our communities. If they think that this will make the real issues just go away, all they have done is make us angry and more determined than ever to shut down this disastrous project.

BREAKING
MINING INQUIRY REPORT SABOTAGED BY GOVERNMENT MEMBERS INTENT ON COVERING UP THE TRUTH.

🗂️ Communities impacted by heavy metal mining projects will be devastated by this report which is now nothing but a political hatchet job.

— Cate Faehrmann
Committee Member & Greens MP

CATE FAEHRMANN
NSW GREENS MP



The Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group Inc.

Cate and Amanda did a marvellous job on the Committee and I really hope you'll continue to advocate on behalf of lead mining-impacted communities like Broken Hill where I've been meeting with wonderful locals these last three days like Gigi Barbe (who stood for Council for the Greens), Semitj Hopcraft from Landcare and the Field Naturalists and long-term resident lead safety advocate Jenny Rowbotham. If enough good people lead, the leaders will follow.

LEAPP Alliance UK

LEAPP Alliance (Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention Alliance) is a joint initiative of the Lead Containing Materials Association, Lead In The Water and Lead Safe World UK.

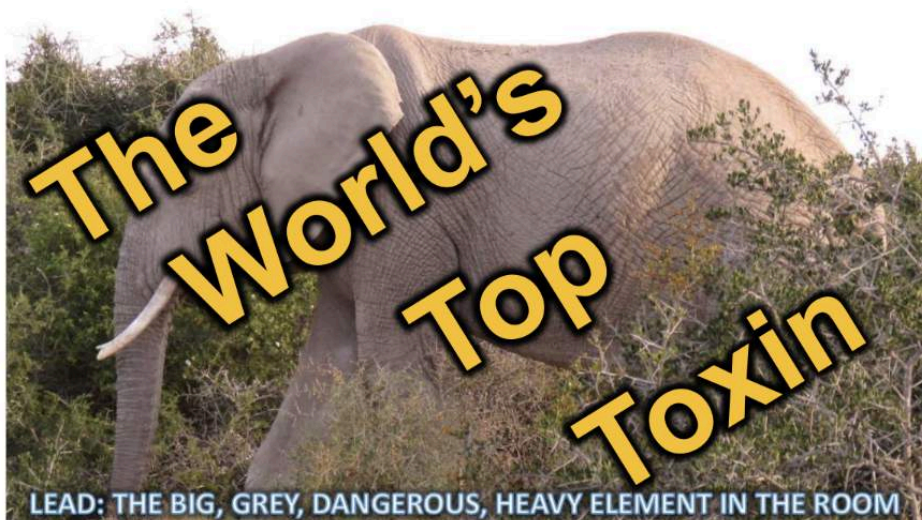
The mission of the alliance is to use our collective knowledge, experience and skill to promote lead poisoning prevention in the UK. If you want to do something about lead toxicity in the UK, please endorse us. You can find their website here: <https://leappalliance.org.uk/>

LEAPP Alliance UK held their All Supporters Mini-Conference on 23rd October 2023 and have shared slides from the meeting for your interest.

Here are a few highlights.



“Peebee The Elephant”



The World's Top Toxin

- World Bank/Pure Earth/Center for Global Development report
 - Bjorn Larsen and Ernesto Sanchez-Triana
- First of the worst
 - Bigger health impact than pm2.5
 - 5.5 million deaths (10%) per year
 - > Car accidents, tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria – combined (VOX 2023)
 - The cost-benefit ratio for lead hazard reduction is better than that for vaccines (WHO 2010)
- Economic impact
 - \$6 trillion in 2019
 - 6.9% of global GDP
 - United Kingdom GDP \$2.83 trillion (3.24%)



• USA • China • Lead • Japan • Germany • UK • Rest of the world

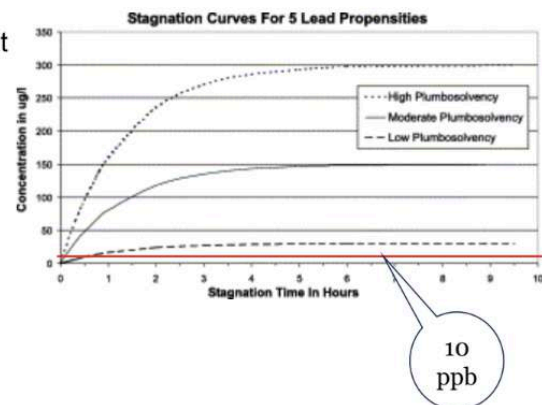
23rd October 2023

i1

p4

Priority – Lead Pipes

- Letter to the Drinking Water Inspectorate and Ofwat
 - Some companies are not following the legislation?
 - Random daytime sampling misses the peak lead contamination
 - One litre sample will dilute the lead
 - Should be 200ml after 6 hours, not 30 minutes
 - [Van de Leer et al. 2002](#)
- Response from the DWI
 - Company web sites are “imprecise”
 - Regulations are being followed
- Our reply
 - The regulations do not specify how long to leave a tap after flushing
 - Asked DWI to tell companies to ask customers to leave for 6 hours



23rd October 2023

i1

p10



Priority – Lead Pipes

- Other meetings
 - The Water Professor
 - Testing service
 - 6% failures
 - Ardent Utilities
- The I newspaper
 - Dean Kirby
 - Front-page
 - Reported elsewhere

Schoolchildren exposed to drinking water containing dangerous levels of lead

INVESTIGATION

Tests results from tap water obtained by i show the toxic metal is still being found at levels well above the standard of 10 micrograms per litre despite a ban on lead pipes in 1970



Campaigners have warned of a failure of oversight of lead pipes in schools and a lack of sufficient testing (Photo: Getty)

23rd October 2023

p11

Priority - Unsafe renovation and repainting



- British Coatings Federation
 - Good meeting with Becky
 - They will take our recommendations to their technical board in November



paintsafe
promoting best practice

- Improved "PaintSafe" web page and FAQs
- Improved labelling on paint containers
- Maybe put "PaintSafe" leaflets in trade and DIY outlets
- Support for ILPPW and UN [Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint](#)
- Painting and Decorating Association
 - Met with Frank and Suzanne
 - Very keen to work with us and share information
 - They have already put our press release on their website
 - Plan to add a landing page for us and other content
 - Talked about a lead-safe accreditation scheme
 - Meeting 15th November
- Abrasives
 - Construction Products Association not willing to help



HHB APPG and BRE



- Healthy Homes and Buildings All Party Parliamentary Group
 - Launch of their “Healthy Homes Healthy Britain Campaign”
 - BRE (Building Research Establishment) “The Cost of Ignoring Poor Housing” report
 - Lead vastly under-estimated – only immediate danger counts
 - Frank and I made our views known!
- New Lead and Health APPG?
 - Drafted a letter of invitation
 - Becky and I spoke to the Lead Ammunition APPG secretariat
 - Found that the APPG rules are changing
 - Less APPGs per parliamentarian, more parliamentarians per APPG
 - It may be possible to widen the remit of the Lead Ammunition APPG

23rd October 2023

11

p16

LEAPP Alliance, UK have shared all the slides from their All Supporters Mini-Conference with us. There's a lot of great information, and so good areas for advocacy.

To see all the slides, click here to access them: <https://leadsafeworld.com/LEAPP>

Lobbying Your Local Member of Parliament

There are lots of good reasons to contact your local Member of Parliament (MP) about lead-safety and lead-poisoning prevention.

Here are some ideas:

- 👉 Addressing lead-contaminated tank water and ceiling dust in Indigenous communities
- 👉 Legislating lead-hazards handouts for potential buyers, renters and improving DIY information to prevent lead exposure and secondary contamination (eg sanding or scraped lead paint left on the ground)
- 👉 Cleaning up lead mining towns for future generations
- 👉 Lowering allowable lead levels in Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- 👉 Banning duck hunting and the use of leaded bullets; and fishing sinkers and wheel weights

If you would like some ideas for advocating for lead-safe policies, then you can explore our Model National Policy here <https://leadsafeworld.com/LAN-natpol>

And some tips for effective communication as shared by LEAPP Alliance, UK -



23rd October 2023

- Six principles and seven Cs of effective communication
- Principles
 - Accessible
 - Actionable
 - Credible and trusted
 - Relevant
 - Understandable
 - Timely
- Seven Cs
 - Catch attention of the audience
 - Clarify messages
 - Communicate the benefit
 - Consistency
 - Cater to heart and head
 - Create trust
 - Call to action



ii

p27

Chocolate: Lead and Cadmium



@theleadgroup



While we posted about this back in May 2023 (<https://leadsafeworld.com/chocolate-fb0523>), more information is coming to the fore about contaminants in chocolate.

It seems that despite the many health benefits of dark chocolate, in the case of lead, milk chocolate wins.

The reason? Milk chocolate contains less cocoa solids (cocoa butter, cocoa liquor, cocoa, and so on).

DISCOVER WHAT GOT
THE TEAM AT THE LEAD GROUP
IN A SPIN!



An investigation by *Consumer Reports* (US) found that the levels of cadmium and lead found in dark chocolate were similar to those reported in a more comprehensive study by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2018.

They found that "23 of 28 tested dark chocolate bars contained excessive lead or cadmium, including Hershey products sold under its own brand and the Lily's and Scharffen Berger brands" (<https://leadsafeworld.com/Stempel>).

Further:

The F.D.A. study found that dark chocolate had, on average, 7.6 micrograms of cadmium and 0.8 micrograms of lead per one-ounce serving [28.4 g], and some products had three or four times as much. (Milk chocolate, which contains less cocoa, had much lower concentrations.)

Compared with more than 300 other foods tested by the F.D.A. in a separate study, dark chocolate had the third-highest concentrations of both cadmium and lead, exceeded only by baking powder and cocoa powder for lead, and cocoa powder and sunflower seeds for cadmium. (<https://leadsafeworld.com/Callahan>)

While the Consumer Reports investigation was not peer-reviewed, it's a good reminder to be mindful of the food we consume and the potential risks associated with heavy metal exposure.

Grandma Lead has told us many times that there is no safe level of lead exposure.

If you're a chocolate lover (like us!) then don't despair - just keep things in moderation.

Take stock of your chocolate intake (chocolate, bars, drinking chocolate, and so on) and limit your consumption.

How much is okay?

If you're a dark chocolate lover, ensure that you eat less than 1oz (28.4g) per day.

What else can you do?

Lobby your MP to take action on this!

The investigation and reports referred to here are all US-based.

So, if you are in Australia, you could contact Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) which is part of the Australian Government's Health portfolio. Here is the contact page on their website: <https://leadsafeworld.com/FSANZ>



#chocolate #leadinchocolate #darkchocolate #cadmiuminchocolate

Safe Management of Lead Paint

Have you ever wondered how to deal with lead paint... safely?

It's a really common problem, so back in 2012, we created a flowchart for the safe management of lead paint - *Flowchart for the Safe Management of Lead Paint (2012)*.

(Please see the next page.)



Have your say!

We're planning on popping this up on the website so more people can access it, but before we do, we'd love your input!

Are there any updates or corrections that you can suggest?

Is there something you think we should include?

Anything else?

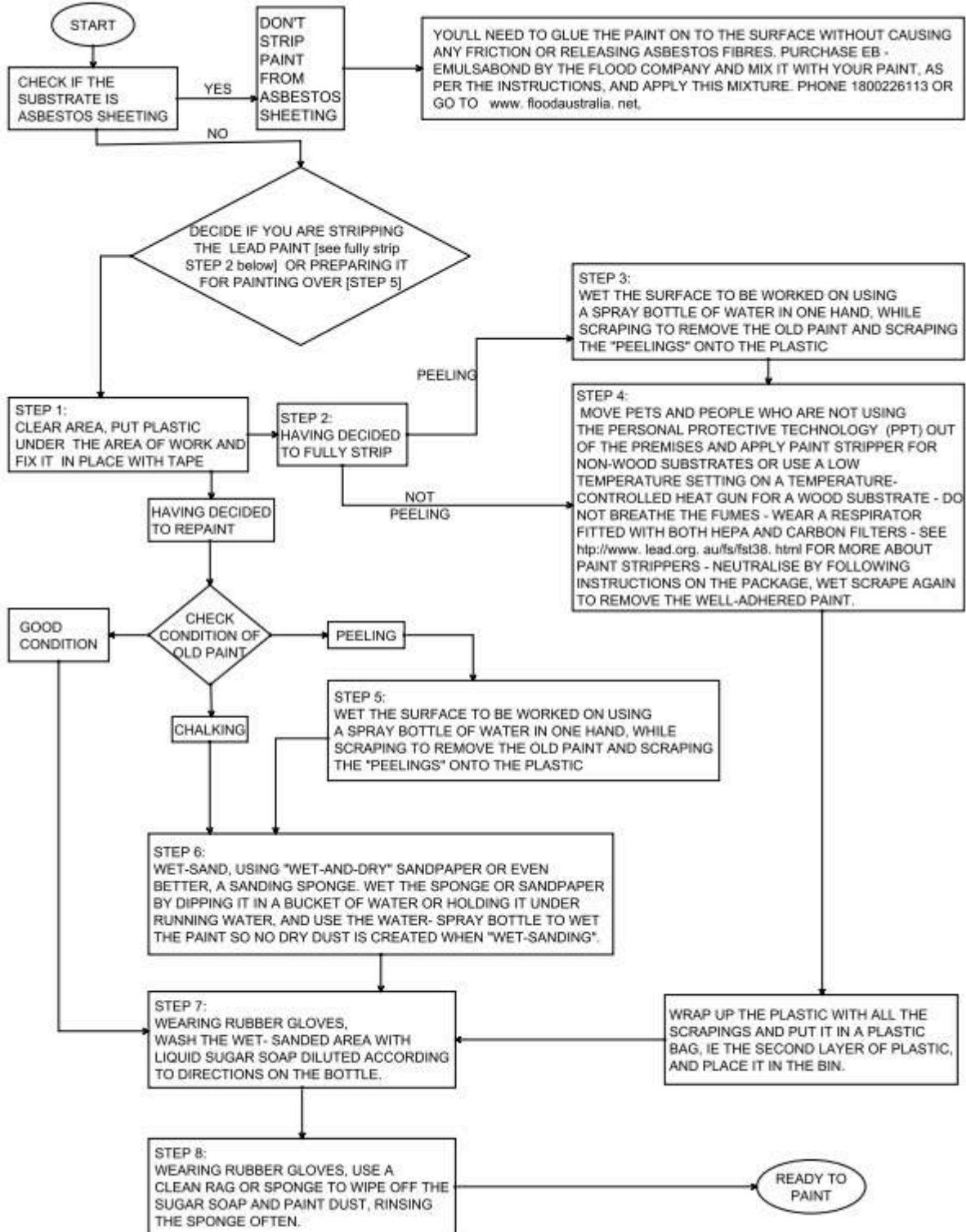
If so, please let us know at <https://leadsafeworld.com/contact-TLG>

Check out the flowchart



LEAD Action NEWS

LEAD PAINT MANAGEMENT FLOWCHART



Industrial Lead Paint Management



Recently, we received an inquiry about training for industrial lead paint management.

So Grandma Lead created an Info Pack, called "Industrial Lead Paint Management in Australia: Class 5 Certification with the PCCP" which you can read here:

<https://leadsafeworld.com/industrial-lead-paint>.

In a nutshell, the relevant training, overseen by CSIRO, is Class 5 Certification with the PCCP (Painting Contractors Certification Program) for industrial lead paint management training and certification - and then we can join forces.

Listing and Partnership with The LEAD Group

Once a responsible person from your company has completed the FULL SCAA Course, we would be happy to list you for free at:

- The LEAD Group's All Painters with lead paint management training page (<https://leadsafeworld.com/all-painters>)

And you are able to become a Corporate Member!

Corporate Members receive the following benefits:

- A paragraph listing your company's connections to lead-safety
- Your company logo
- A link to your website.

Our Corporate Membership is \$132 per annum (or the discounted \$100 per annum if your company also belongs to another organisation with lead-safety aims compatible with The LEAD Group's vision).

Join us here: <https://leadsafeworld.com/become-a-corporate-member>

#industrialleadpaintmanagement #corporatemember

Benefits of Joining

Did you know you can join The LEAD Group as an individual?

That's right! **For just \$10 per year, you get -**

- An email notice each time our quarterly e-newsletter LEAD Action News is published to our website (this is a LEAD Action News)
- An invitation to our AGM, held in October each year, and
- You will also be eligible for the members' discount if you want to purchase any of our Kits, or if you want to have items tested for metals by XRF (x-ray fluorescence) through Sampling Technologies in Melbourne or Portable XRF Services

Here is our pricing table so you can see the savings that a \$10 investment will get you (and there are no limits on how many Kits you can get in a year!).

	Member Prices		Non-member Prices	
	Emailed	Posted	Emailed	Posted
1-Sample Lead Testing Kit	\$56	\$66	\$66	\$76
2-Sample Lead Testing Kit	\$112	\$122	\$132	\$142
8-Sample Lead Testing Kit	\$263	\$273	\$288	\$298

That's pretty awesome, right??

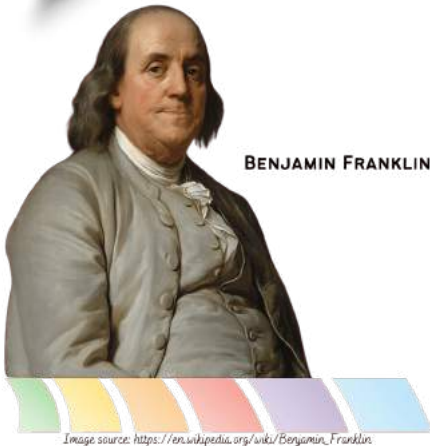
If you'd like to get our special members rates AND the other benefits, you can join us today!

[🔗 Here's the link https://leadsafeworld.com/matesrates](https://leadsafeworld.com/matesrates)

#JoinUsandSAVE #becomeamember #TheLEADGroup

Quotable Quotes

Benjamin Franklin wrote at the end of his 1786 letter to Benjamin Vaughan regarding lead poisoning (p29):



"This,
my
dear

LEAD POISONING

TO
BENJAMIN VAUGHAN

Philada, July 31, 1786.

This, my dear friend, is all I can at present recollect on the subject. You will see by it, that the opinion of this mischievous effect from lead is at least above sixty years old; and you will observe with concern how long a useful truth may be known and exist, before it is generally receiv'd and practis'd on.

I am, ever, yours most affectionately,
B. FRANKLIN.

friend, is all I can at present recollect on the Subject. You will see by it, that the Opinion of this mischievous Effect from Lead, is at least above Sixty Years old; and you will observe with Concern how long a useful Truth may be known, and exist, before it is generally receiv'd and practis'd on."

You will see that Franklin was referring to an opinion expressed 60 years previously, in 1726. Today, nearly 300 years later, we are still dealing with lead poisoning.

This quote was contributed by Tim Pye who is flummoxed as to why the useful Truth about the mischievous Effect from Lead has still not been fully received and practiced on now nearly 300 years on!

Reference: Ben Franklin's Lead Poisoning Letter to Benjamin Vaughan, Phila July 31, 1786, reprinted in The Ingenious Dr. Franklin: Selected Scientific Letters of Benjamin Franklin (edited by Nathan G. Goodman), Pages displayed on Google Books by permission of University of Pennsylvania Press. Copyright. Letter web-published by Environmental Education Associates (EEA) - which can be viewed on the following page, and can be accessed using this link: <https://leadsafeworld.com/benjaminfranklinletter>

The Famous Benjamin Franklin Letter On Lead Poisoning

Phila July 31, 1786 (To Benjamin Vaughan)

Dear Friend,

I recollect that when I had the great Pleasure of seeing you at Southampton, now a 12 month since, we had some Conversation on the bad Effects of Lead taken inwardly; and that at your Request I promis'd to send you in writing a particular Account of several Facts I then mention'd to you, of which you thought some good Use might be made. I now sit down to fulfil that Promise.

The first Thing I remember of this kind, was a general discourse in Boston when I was a Boy, of a Complaint from North Carolina against New England Rum, that it poison'd their People, giving them the Dry Bellyach, with a Loss of the Use of their Limbs. The Distilleries being examin'd on the Occasion, it was found that several of them used leaden Still-heads and Worms, and the Physicians were of the Opinion that the Mischief was occasion'd by that Use of Lead. The Legislature of the Massachusetts thereupon pass'd an Act prohibiting under severe Penalties the Use of such Still-heads & Worms thereafter. Inclos'd I send you a Copy of the Act, taken from my printed Law book.

In 1724, being in London, I went to work in the Printing-House of Mr. Palmer, Bartholomew Close as a Compositor. I there found a Practice I had never seen before, of drying a Case of Types, (which are wet in Distribution) by placing it sloping before the Fire. I found this had the additional Advantage, when the Types were not only dry'd but heated, of being comfortable to the Hands working over them in cold weather. I therefore sometimes heated my Case when the Types did not want drying. But an old Workman observing it, advis'd me not to do so, telling me I might lose the Use of my Hands by it, as two of our Companions had nearly done, one of whom that us'd to earn his Guinea a Week could not then make more than ten Shillings and the other, who had the Dangles, but Seven & sixpence. This, with a kind of obscure Pain that I had sometimes felt as it were in the Bones of my Hand when working over the Types made very hot, induc'd me to omit the Practice. But talking afterwards with Mr. James, a Letter-founder in the same Close, and asking him if his People, who work'd over the little Furnaces of melted Metal, were not subject to that Disorder; he made light of any Danger from the Effluvia, but ascrib'd it to Particles of the Metal swallow'd with their Food by slovenly Workmen, who went to their Meals after handling the Metal, without well-washing their Fingers, so that some of the metalline Particles were taken off by their Bread and eaten with it. This appear'd to have some Reason in it. But the Pain I had experienc'd made me still afraid of those Effluvia.

Being in Derbshire at some of the Furnaces for Smelting of Lead Ore, I was told that the Smoke of those Furnaces was pernicious to the neighboring Grass and other Vegetables. But I do not recollect to have heard any thing of the Effect of such Vegetables eaten by Animals. It may be well to make the Enquiry.

In America I have often observed that on the Roofs of our shingled Houses where Moss is apt to grow in northern Exposures, if there be any thing on the Roof painted with white lead, such as Balusters, or

LEAD *Action* NEWS

Frames of dormant Windows, &c. there is constantly a streak on the Shingles from such Paint down to the Eaves, on which no Moss will grow, but the Wood remains constantly clean & free from it.--We seldom drink Rain Water that falls on our Houses; and if we did, perhaps the small Quantity of Lead descending from such Paint, might not be sufficient to produce any sensible ill Effect on our Bodies. But I have of a Case in Europe, I forgot the Place, where a whole Family was afflicted with what we call the Dry-Bellyach, or Colica Pictonum, by drinking Rain Water. It was at a Country Seat, which being situated too high to have the Advantage of a Well, was supply'd with Water from a Tank which receiv'd the Water from the leaded Roofs. This had been drank several Years without Mischief; but some young Trees planted near the House, growing up above the Roof, and shedding their Leaves upon it, it was suppos'd that an Acid in those Leaves had corroded the Lead they cover'd, and furnish'd the Water of that Year with its baneful Particles & Qualities.

When I was in Paris with Sir John Pringle in 1767, he visited La Charite, a Hospital particularly famous for the Cure of that Malady, and brought from thence a Pamphlet, containing a List of the Names of Persons, specifying their Professions or Trades, who had been cured there. I had the Curiosity to examine that List, and found that all the Patients were of Trades that some way or other use or work in Lead; such as Plumbers, Glasiers, Painters, &c. excepting only two kinds, Stonecutters and Soldiers. These I could not reconcile to my Notion that Lead was the Cause of that Disorder. But on my mentioning this Difficulty to a Physician of that Hospital, he inform'd me that the Stonecutters are continually using melted Lead to fix the Ends of Iron Balustrades in Stone; and that the Soldiers had been employ'd by Painters as Labourers in Grinding of Colours.

This, my dear friend, is all I can at present recollect on the Subject. You will see by it, that the Opinion of this mischievous Effect from Lead, is at least above Sixty Years old; and you will observe with Concern how long a useful Truth may be known, and exist, before it is generally receiv'd and practis'd on.

-- I am, ever,

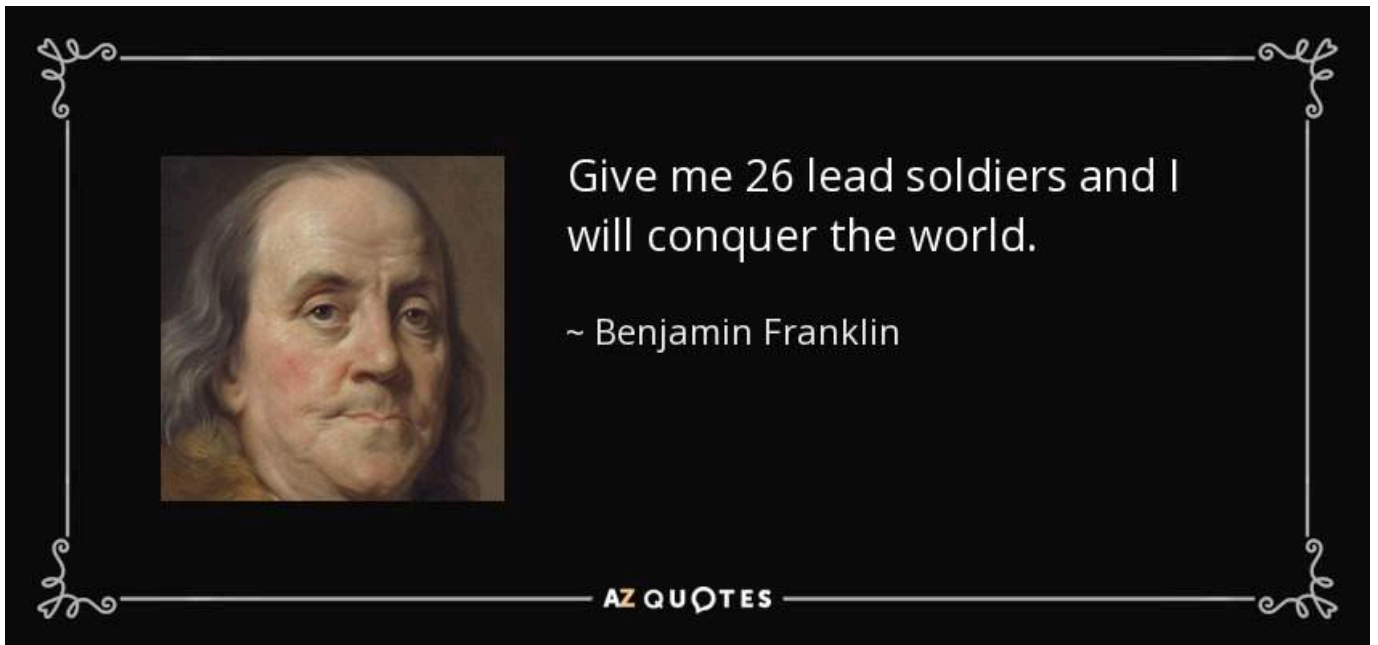
Yours most affectionately

B. Franklin

(Benjamin Vaughan was a youthful admirer and close friend of Franklin, who was 80 years old when he wrote to Vaughan. The letter press copy of Franklin's communication is in the Library of Congress, the holograph not having survived. The letter is reproduced here with the original capitalization and spelling.)nd,

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Benjamin Franklin. (n.d.). AZQuotes.com. Retrieved 22 April 2024 from AZQuotes.com Web site: <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/1210155>

Here Franklin was referring to the printing press and asserting that the written word is all-conquering. We may be concerned about lead dust migrating to the printed paper or the print press worker. A paper titled *Occupational Lead Exposure in Printing Presses: An Analytical Approach* by Oke et al, 2008, explores the issue and describes the 'lead absorption problem that poses a great threat to the health of workers in printing presses'.

You can read the article here: <https://leadsafeworld.com/Oke-article>