



The Lead Education and Abatement Design Group

Working to eliminate lead poisoning globally and to protect the environment from lead in all its uses: past, current and new uses

ABN 25 819 463 114

## Media Release - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013

### Call for ministers' plans for the Inaugural WHO International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action - 20-26 October 2013

The [Inaugural International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action](#) has been announced to take place from 20-26 October 2013 by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This announcement is the fulfillment of a 16 year old vision of the global lead-awareness charity, The LEAD Group Inc. All Ministers are invited to make plans for the week now!

LEAD Group President Elizabeth O'Brien says "This is the biggest step towards a lead-safe world in all our 22 years of providing free knowledge on how to combat lead poisoning and protect the earth from lead contamination."

"The LEAD Group has marked a week of activities every year since 1997, and first proposed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the setting up of an International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, in 2010."

In 2012, The LEAD Group set up the world's first lead-safety environmental art competition – the [Volcano Art Prize \(VAP\)](#) to mark the 12<sup>th</sup> "International Lead Poisoning Awareness Week" (first declared by the community group in 2001) and VAP is now open to entrants of all ages globally.

"We plan to contribute an open-access online database of government plans and educational materials from around the world, for the Inaugural International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, 2013, as well as [copyright-free graphics from the VAP website](#), for use by all. The LEAD Group calls for photos and artworks that illustrate lead-safety messages and ministerial support for the VAP Award Ceremony to be held during the Week of Action."

The LEAD Group's sister organization in the USA, Lead Safe America Foundation (LSAF), has also [declared the entire month of October as "Lead Poisoning Prevention Month"](#) as "awareness necessary to truly prevent lead-poisoning can be enhanced by an entire month of activities and public awareness efforts." LSAF's [Mislead movie](#) will be screened across the US in October 2013, with costs covered by multiple agencies.

This and other news has been published in The LEAD Group's [LEAD Action News v13n4 \(June 2013\)](#). In the free e-newsletter's main article, Dr Peter J Hurley highlights the hidden dangers of so-called "non-toxic" ammunition at shooting ranges: "Adding steel to a range increases the level of potentially soluble lead and antimony pollutants by redox corrosion and increases acid corrosion of legacy metals." Dr Hurley recommends, "don't shoot steel over legacy lead and don't shoot antimonial lead."

"Ministers for Environment, Occupational and Public Health and Ageing, Education and Childcare, Local Government, the Arts, Mining and Industry, Consumer Protection, Police and Defence especially need to be planning their Week of Action activities now, but all Ministers could readily incorporate lead-safety into their policies and programmes, especially in countries like Australia and China where lead is so vital to the economy," says O'Brien.

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