

# THE LEAD GROUP

*The Lead Education and Abatement Design Group  
Aiming to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Australia by  
the year 2002 and to protect the environment from lead*

18 May 1993

**The Hon Ros Kelly MP  
Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories  
Suite MG 48, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600**

The LEAD Group's  
Technical Advisory Board.

- Prof Geoffrey Duggin,  
clinical toxicologist
- Dr Brian Gulson,  
isotopic fingerprinting.
- Dr Chris Winder,  
toxicologist, occupational  
health & safety.
- Dr Garth Alperstein,  
community paediatrician.
- Assoc Prof Peter Newman,  
science/technology policy,  
urban planning.
- Dr Ian Irvine,  
pollution research.
- Dr Louis du Plessis,  
environmentalist,  
incinerator and  
landfill specialist.
- Dr Chloe Mason,  
public health,  
environmental protection  
& public interest.
- Dr Val Brown,  
environment, consumers.
- Dr Jill Maddison,  
veterinary research.
- Graeme Waller,  
pathology,  
environmental assessment
- Shirley Gibson,  
leadlighter.
- Fred Salome,  
industrial chemist, paint.
- Peter Caldwell,  
automotive engineer.
- Prof Graham Vimpani,  
child & family health.
- Dr Karl Kruszelnicki,  
medical & scientific  
commentator.

Dear Ms Kelly,

**RE: RAPID PHASE-OUT OF LEADED PETROL AND COMMUNITY  
REPRESENTATION AT THE OECD JOINT MEETING IN MAY 1993**

After recently meeting with four of Australia's five petrol refiners it is clear that a rapid phase out of lead in petrol will only occur if the Federal Government acts. All the petrol companies we spoke with indicated that it is not their responsibility to reduce lead in petrol but that they will always conform with legislation.

We understand that CEPA has partially funded the NHMRC's Lead in Blood and Lead in Air Guidelines Impact Study, yet this issue urgently requires leadership by the environment minister. Children's intelligence is being damaged now: it is essential that permissible lead in petrol is immediately brought down to European levels; closely followed by a further reduction to North American levels; and a definite date for final phase-out as in New Zealand (1996).

My previous letter (2nd February 1993) has not received a reply, yet some of the questions in it need urgent answers:-

Who is in the Australian delegation to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 20th Joint Meeting in Paris in May 1993? How can community groups have any faith that our extensive contributions to the OECD Cooperative Risk Reduction Document on Lead will be incorporated into the document, if no community representatives go to the Joint Meeting?

What action have you instigated through ANZECC and NEPA to set up a National Lead Taskforce with community representation whose task is to design an Australian strategy to eliminate childhood poisoning?

Looking forward to a speedy reply  
Yours Sincerely

Elizabeth O'Brien

