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**Deborah Jeffrey**

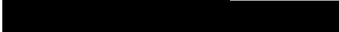
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**From:** Queenslanders for Safe Water, Air and Food Inc. <info@qawf.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 November 2012 12:43 AM  
**To:** Finance and Administration Committee  
**Subject:** Please find attached a second submission - Water Fluoridation Act amendments  
**Attachments:** SUBMISSION\_2\_FAC\_COMMITTEE\_FLUORIDATION.pdf

**Importance:** High

Please find attached a second submission on behalf of our association.

Kind Regards

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on behalf of Queenslanders For Safe Water, Air and Food Inc  
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9/9/2012

The Research Director  
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**Submission regarding FAC Committee consideration of amendments to 2008 Water Fluoridation Act - SE Qld Water ( Restructuring ) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012**

Requesting that an amendment be made to Clause 80 that new subsection 6A raise the exemption level from proposed 10,000 to 100,000 specifically so that Bundaberg council are able to submit an application for exemption as Bundaberg council have made clear their opposition to forced fluoridation.

Requesting that Bundaberg council be acknowledged for exception into Section 8 and allowed exemption.

Requesting for any communities making a case for exemption that the committee consider the following points under Section 8(3 )

*' the water supplier can not ensure the effective and safe addition of fluoride to the water supply '*

And also under Section 8(1) ( c)

*'the addition of fluoride to the water supply in unlikely to result in a substantial ongoing oral health benefit to 1000 or more members of the public serviced by the water supply'*

- Effectiveness of fluoridation is in doubt – the 2008 Australian Child Dental Health Survey (published Sept 2012) shows that in 2008 ( pre Qld forced fluoridation ) Tasmanian children aged 6 years ( baby teeth ) and at age 12 years with 83% of the Tasmanian population with fluoridated water had exactly the same amount of tooth decay as Queensland children ( <5% fluoridated ) at the same key ages – despite Tasmanian children receiving one and half times as many tooth decay preventative dental sealants
- Data from the National Adult Oral Health Survey 2004- 2006 state and territory reports showed very little difference in tooth decay between Queensland adults pre- fluoridation and adults from the long term fluoridated states and territories.
- Safety of water fluoridation has never been established. Queensland Health has advised that no Health Risk Assessments have been done, nor have any Environmental Impact Assessments for water fluoridation. SEQWater has not conducted any risk assessments for people drinking fluoridated water in the SEQWater Drinking Water Quality Management Plan ( not even for vulnerable sub-groups such as babies and those with Kidney Impairment)

- The NHMRC Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 advises “ *People with kidney impairment have a lower margin of safety for fluoride intake. Limited data indicate that their fluoride retention may be up to three times normal*”.
- The NHMRC 2007 fluoride review did not report, nor investigate, the cumulative effects of fluoride on people with kidney impairment even though this was a requirement of review tender. Safety of fluoridation has not been established for people with kidney impairment ( many elderly, many Diabetics and Aboriginals )
- Fluoridated water contributes to dental fluorosis – which is acknowledged as first sign of fluoride toxicity. The latest available Australian data \*shows 25% of children in fluoridated NSW areas have some form of fluorosis. Additionally 38 children in every 1000 in NSW fluoridated areas have Moderate Dental Fluorosis compared to only 2 in a 1000 in non-fluoridated areas. Moderate Dental Fluorosis has been linked by Australian researchers to psychological harm ( \* NSW Child Dental Health Survey 2007 )
- In Jan 2011 The US Public Health Service lowered their recommended fluoride concentration to 0.7 mg/L – this is lower than the concentration used in SE Qld Of 0.8 mg/L
- Breast milk in non- fluoridated areas contains on average 0.004 ppm (National Research Council 2006 Fluoride in Drinking Water) . Bottle fed babies up to 12 months of age fed on formula re-constituted with fluoridated water receive more fluoride than NHMRC Upper Limits which are based on a threshold of developing Moderate Dental Fluorosis.

The committee is also requested to consider the effect of the Fluoridation Act on the rights and liberties of individuals.

The Queensland Government Position Statement 2003 acknowledged that forced fluoridation was unethical mass medication

In 2008 the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee when looking at the Fluoridation Act asked “ *Does the legislation have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals? Section 4(2) (a) of the Legislative Standards Act 1992 requires legislation to have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals*”

The Committee didn't make a decision, or consider – the committee just referred back to Parliament (Health Minister Stephen Robertson) where Stephen Robertson then proceeded to ignore the issue of rights and liberties of individuals.

In 2008 the Scrutiny Committee referred back to John – Paul Langbroek's 2004 Private Members Bill ,where it was claimed mandatory fluoridation was justifiable based on the need to address Qld's unsustainable level of tooth decay. Information that had been provided to Premier Bligh in Feb 2008 indicated that tooth decay in Queensland children was similar to two other states ( with majority of water supplies fluoridated ) Information had also been provided to Premier Bligh that the 2000, 2001 and 2002 Queensland child dental health surveys ( the latest surveys published ) indicated that children from fluoridated Townsville had more tooth decay in their permanent teeth at age 12 years ( WHO comparison age ) than did children from the Gold Coast and several other un-fluoridated Queensland Health districts.

The 2008 committee did not consider effectiveness, nor safety at all and it did not give proper consideration to the rights and liberties of individuals with forced fluoridation.

We are hoping that the 2012 committee will consider the issues raised in this submission.

Yours faithfully

Merilyn Haines on behalf of Queenslanders For Safe Water Air and Food Inc

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