

Lynette Whelan

From: Sandy Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 9 November 2012 9:47 AM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: Fluoridation of Bundaberg's water supply

I would like to register my protest against the fluoridation of Bundaberg's water supply. Aside from any debate as to the safety of ingesting this substance, the logistics and economics of this procedure, which is being thrust upon the residents of the area without their consent, deem it to be highly unsatisfactory.

The majority of the people (children) who need dental care are the ones who don't drink water but ingest soft drink and other sugar-laden beverages and usually come from families whose dental hygiene is almost non-existent. This means that by far the greater proportion of this fluoridated water will go on washing bodies, clothing, cars, dogs, hosing off driveways etc and eventually go back into our waterways and potentially changing the balance of water quality.

Instead of wasting millions on a mainly-unwanted product, why not allocate a certain amount of money (based on parental income if you want to) for children up to the age of five to access dental care. Perhaps give vouchers for free fluoride treatment, or, instead of a \$5,000 or \$3,000 baby bonus, reduce this by \$1,000 and give \$1,000 worth of dental vouchers to be used for that child from birth to the end of primary school. I'm sure this would be more beneficial than fluoridating water that a lot of children won't drink.

Due to the taste of town water, most of the people I know either drink rain water or have filters on their taps. Multiply these by many similar people, and fluoride becomes an unused additive.

The money spent on setting up a fluoridation plant would be better spent on free fluoride treatments on children's teeth. The on-going expense of maintaining the plant would be better spent on maintaining facilities such as the AGL Helicopter which is so necessary for our regional area.

Yours sincerely
Sandy Curtis