

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY — FLUORIDATION

Petition

HON CHARLES SMITH (East Metropolitan) [2.03 pm]: I present a petition containing 634 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to fluoridation of any public water supply in Western Australia; we particularly oppose fluoridation of water supplied by Water Corporation to premises in Yanchep.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to:

1. consider a submission of the principal petitioner incorporating statistical, medical and ethical evidence showing that fluoridation of public water supplies:
 - (a) does not reduce the incidence of dental caries when compared with no systemic fluoride treatment (i.e. no water, milk or salt fluoridation);
 - (b) is likely to cause serious medical harm, not limited to fluorosis, in a significant percentage of a population treated with such water because fluoride is a proven neurotoxin and nephrotoxin and is strongly associated with osteosarcoma; and
 - (c) cannot qualify as an ethical public health measure because it fails to satisfy any of the corresponding principles of non-maleficence, beneficence, health maximisation, efficiency, respect for autonomy, justice, or proportionality;
2. conclude that it is not reasonable for the Parliament of Western Australia to rely upon regulatory recommendations made, or guidelines issued, by the CEO of the NHMRC pursuant to the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992* purporting to recommend that public water supplies in Australia be fluoridated; and
3. recommend to the Minister for Health that he:
 - (a) request the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee (“FPWSAC”) to show cause why it should not immediately rescind, pursuant to s. 13(1)(a)(i) of the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*, its recommendations that fluorine be added to the water supply of Yanchep and to the water supply of each other place in Western Australia in relation to which FPWSAC has made such a recommendation, respectively; and, having procured FPWSAC’s rescissions of those recommendations,
 - (b) without delay approve of, pursuant to s.13(2)(a) of the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966*, each of FPWSAC’s rescissions of recommendation and proceed to advise each respective water supply authority accordingly.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 1108.]