



Living safely with Lead Newsletter

Squeaky's Activity Book

We are very proud to launch our Squeaky Activity Book, which is designed to help parents and carers teach young children how to be lead smart.

This book is full of fun and exciting activities to teach our children about the Alliance's key messages of wet wipe, wash and eat well.

We are pleased to be handing out this booklet to all children attending this year's Mardi Gras.

Come and see us for your copy of the Squeaky Activity Book.

Learning to be lead smart is fun!

Routine testing at Mount Isa Hospital

This year Mount Isa Hospital will be undertaking routine blood lead testing on all children under five years of age that come to the hospital for other blood tests.

The hospital testing program is a component of the Mount Isa Lead Health Management Committee's Strategic Plan 2013-2016. The new program aims to increase the number of children tested annually, ensuring any higher risk groups of children are identified and interventions can be offered to minimise the risk of continued lead exposure.

This program is welcomed by the Living with Lead Alliance.

FREE CALL 1800 457 547

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Mount Isa Health Expo**

Where: Buchanan Park

When:

Friday 25th July 10am-4pm

Saturday 26th July 9.30am-2pm

- **Mount Isa Mardi Gras**

Where: Buchanan Park

When: Friday 8th August

QUESTIONS ABOUT LEAD?

If you have any questions about living safely with lead in Mount Isa, go to www.livingwithlead.com.au and download our Q & A and fact sheet.

Alternatively, call us on:

FREE CALL 1800 457 547

FREE BLOOD TESTING

QML Pathology

13a Isa Street, Mount Isa

Phone: 07 4743 4299

OPEN: Monday—Friday 7.30am to 2.00pm

CONTACT US

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The **Living with Lead Alliance** is a public education initiative developed by its community partners Mount Isa City Council, Queensland Health, Department of Environment & Heritage Protection and Mount Isa Mines. Chaired by state member for Mount Isa Rob Katter.

Release of Draft Information Paper on lead

On 16 July 2014 the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) released a Draft Information Paper, '*Evidence on the effects of lead on human health*' for public consultation.

The NHMRC is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. This paper provides a summary of the most recent evidence available across the world on the health effects of lead and how these health risks can be minimised.

Some of the key findings of the Draft Information Paper include:

- National policy should continue to minimise the amount of artificially introduced lead into our environments
- It is not possible to tell if low level lead exposure has a meaningful negative impact on health, but there is no 'safe' level of lead that has been proven *not* to cause any health problems
- Recommendation for a reduction in the blood lead level investigation trigger from 10 micrograms per decilitre (ug/dL) to five

The paper is available for public comment until 14 September 2014.

For further information visit <http://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au>

Response from Queensland Health

In response to the recommendations of NHMRC's Draft Information Paper, Queensland Health has announced it would adopt the new blood lead notification level of 5 ug/dL.

The process will mean a regulatory change under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

What does this mean for me?

The Living With Lead Alliance welcomes these announcements.

Queensland Health advises these changes will **not impact** the extensive existing testing and public awareness programs about lead in the environment in Mount Isa.

We continue to encourage residents, and in particular their young children, to participate in the free blood lead testing program available through QML and to keep implementing our key messages of *Wet Wash, Wipe* and *Eat Well* around their homes.

