



14 January 2016

## Lead research statement

*The following statement may be attributed to Queensland Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young.*

*Dr Young also is Chair of the Mount Isa Lead Health Management Committee.*

Queensland's Department of Health relies on the scientific evidence compiled by the National Health and Medical Research Council on environmental health impacts of lead.

We support the NHMRC Position Statement: *Evidence on the Effects of Lead on Human Health* (May 2015), which also recommended a reduction in the mandatory blood lead notification level from 10 micrograms per decilitre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) to 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .

This recommendation was accepted by Queensland and the necessary regulatory changes were made to the *Public Health Act 2005* to legislate this new standard.

The reduction in the mandatory notification level came into effect on 1 January 2016 and requires the source of lead exposure to be investigated and, where possible, mitigated, particularly if the person is a child or pregnant woman.

The Department of Health welcomes the feedback in the research study: "*Assessment of online public health education material targeted for lead mining and smelting towns*".

A review of the department's website will be undertaken and support will be provided to the Living with Lead Alliance where required so that the provided information reflects current evidence on health risks and the recommendations of the NHMRC.

The Department of Health will continue to work closely with the community to raise awareness of health risk and provide education so that families can reduce the risk of lead exposure for their children.

Through the National Environmental Health Committee, the Queensland Department of Health also works with other jurisdictions to support national consistency in the management of health risks in lead endemic communities such as Mount Isa, Port Pirie and Broken Hill.

**ENDS**

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