



The Lead Education and Abatement Design Group  
Working to eliminate childhood and foetal lead poisoning  
by the year 2012 and to protect the environment from lead  
ABN 25 819 463 114

# The LEAD Group Inc 2010

## Eighteen Year Review of Objectives

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*[Please also refer to the 2002 [Ten Year Review of Objectives](#)]*

The aims and objectives of The LEAD Group, were formulated in July 1992 and have been completely revised as at September 2010.

### **AIMS of The LEAD Group**

- *To eliminate lead poisoning globally*
- *To ensure that the ecosystem is protected from lead in all its uses - past, current and new uses*

*Achievement of both aims will result in reducing the exposure to lead of all organisms.*

BACKGROUND: very few organisms would have been exposed to lead prior to human lead mining activities, and, like most organisms, humans evolved with an inability to distinguish lead from other useful minerals such as iron and zinc. But as soon as lead was added to petrol in 1922 and wind currents spread the vehicle emissions globally, every organism on the planet was exposed to lead. As the era of leaded petrol draws to a close, inhalation and deposition of lead-contaminated vehicle emissions will continue to reduce, and only (generally) ingestion and skin absorption of the lead that has passed through an engine and then fallen out as dust (into building cavities or undercover areas, onto soil or water and then into the sediment) will remain.

It is very likely true to say, that the greatest reduction in lead exposure of all organisms in general therefore, will be achieved by eliminating lead from petrol, and that the greatest reduction in lead exposure of organisms in close proximity or downstream from industry is achieved by reducing lead emissions from lead, zinc, silver and some copper, gold and tin mines and smelters. In general, these so-called "point source" emissions (from mines, smelters, recycling plants etc) are likely to reduce as occupational health and safety (OH&S) regulations are made more stringent AND enforced. OH&S regulations are normally stronger than environmental regulations (due to advocacy for them by unions and individual workers). Thus the following objectives arise:

### **OBJECTIVES**

- That The LEAD Group is adequately resourced to maintain a credible, efficient and effective organisation and our Global Lead Advice and Support Service (GLASS) is sufficiently and continuously funded in order to maintain our database of experts, network contacts and clients and continue to develop information which both responds to the needs of our global client base and works towards achievement of our objectives
- Through a synergistic relationship with policy bodies such as the World Health Organisation and United Nations Environment Programme, to suggest and encourage a downward revision of the

recommended goal blood lead level (for the community and for workers) and the setting up of international agreements on the elimination of lead poisoning, and for the protection of the environment from lead

- To suggest and encourage Australian Federal, State and Local governments, and Australian businesses, including those with operations overseas, to redouble their efforts to make legislation more stringent and effective in preventing and managing lead poisoning, and lead contamination
- To increase awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning and to convince national governments to carry out regular national blood lead surveys of all ages, and to raise awareness of relevant high-dose or high-prevalence lead sources in their country
- To facilitate increased environmental testing for lead (eg in paint, soil, drinking water, dust, dust wipes, toys, ceramics) by promoting DIY-sampling lead laboratory analysis test kits (as sold by The LEAD Group within Australia) for adaptation to local circumstances, by lead-concerned NGO's in collaboration with local labs in countries other than USA and Australia
- To build, maintain and strengthen networks of information and people around lead issues
- To provide help in the form of information and advice to government and industry in managing the problems of lead, and collecting, collating, analysing, reporting, web-publishing and disseminating lead data such as blood lead levels, lead acid battery recycling rates, site clean-ups, and consumer product recalls
- To be a model for community action for lead and other environmental groups
- To increase our web-readership and to fully utilise the potential of our e-newsletter, *LEAD Action News* and media releases, to proactively inform the public, governments and industry about lead: latest research on lead and the synergistic effects of lead with other toxics and conditions, world's best and worst policies and practices, and other knowledge that achieves our objectives
- Make contact and provide suggestions, encouragement and information (and, where feasible, with some funding under Australia's foreign aid program) in the setting up in countries other than Australia and the United States of similar organizations to The LEAD Group, which can campaign locally on the following objectives:

### **1. Primary Prevention of Lead Poisoning and Lead Contamination:**

- Global phase-out of leaded petrol and leaded AvGas (aviation gasoline)
- Global phase-out of leaded paints and inks, including artists' materials
- Global ban on lead weighting or lead pigmenting of foods, beverages, cosmetics and complementary and herbal medicines
- Global ban on all other dispersive uses of lead in consumer products or uses which are not readily collectable or recycled eg ammunition (except that used in shooting ranges if the range is properly managed), leaded wheel weights and fishing sinkers
- To provide information which assists governments and industry to control lead and other toxic heavy metal emissions from mines, smelters, manufacturing and recycling plants

### **2. Secondary Prevention of Lead Poisoning and Abatement of Existing Lead Contamination:**

- That blood lead surveys of all ages and sub-populations occur in communities worldwide
- That national goals for community and occupational blood lead levels be based on the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile level found via frequent blood lead surveys of all ages and sub-populations within each country
- That questionnaires re risk factors be developed locally and made relevant to various age groups and to local sources and pathways of lead poisoning

- That doctors administer these questionnaires to achieve universal blood lead questionnaire screening
- Universal opportunistic blood lead testing (whenever blood is available from other blood tests)
- To raise awareness among the public that if they've been alive during the era of leaded petrol, then they should request blood lead testing at least once every five years as they age and that children should be tested annually from the age of crawling if they live in a house with lead paint or lead-contaminated ceiling dust or near any point source of lead emissions.
- To convince governments to have universal collection, collation, analysis of all blood lead results and reporting to public health professionals on trends in blood lead levels
- To convince governments to follow-up / assess the environment whenever a blood lead level exceeds the goal
- To raise awareness among the public that they should institute nutritional intervention and assessment of lead sources in the case of even very low blood lead levels
- That the use of lead in the preparation of artist's materials including paints, glazes and lead calmes for use in leadlight / stained glass windows continue to be allowed, but accompanied by appropriate warnings regarding the potential hazards of ingestion or inhalation during use, and appropriate guidelines for their safe use and disposal
- That these artist's materials not be sold to or used by unsupervised minors

### **3. Tertiary prevention of lead poisoning and mitigation of the harmful effects of historical lead contamination:**

- To convince epidemiologists to research the annual death-rate in every country attributable to past lead exposure and to disseminate their findings to health professionals, especially to cardiologists and general practitioners
- To convince pharmaceutical researchers to determine whether chelation therapy reduces the risk of early death from even low blood lead levels
- To raise public awareness and inform health professionals about any chelators that are found to be effective, and about the need for good nutrition to fight lead poisoning
- The appropriate remediation of lead-contaminated buildings and contaminated sites and the development of, and awareness-raising about, garden management techniques to allow heavy metal contaminated land to be useable for local food production
- The mandatory reporting to owners and tenants of lead paint on houses / buildings and of other lead hazards in the buildings at the time of sale or tenancy and prior to painting, surface disturbance works or demolition being conducted
- Training and licensing of lead paint removal contractors and of Inspectors to do clearance testing to ensure properties are not contaminated
- Creation of green jobs and training and licensing of other lead abatement contractors relevant to the lead contamination found in a particular country, eg in Australia, training and licensing of ceiling dust removalists and of permaculturists and land remediators to deal with acid mine drainage and mine waste
- To reduce incineration of leaded waste and the cremation of humans without appropriate facilities (state-of-the-art filtration systems and controlled landfills for waste ash management) and to promote space-saving non-cremation burial methods
- A global ban on lead and other toxics in vehicles, computers, TVs and other electronics, increased recycling rates and zero-emission recycling facilities for these products