



President's Report FY2023 – presented to AGM 25/10/2023

This Financial Year (FY) 2023 President's Report was presented by Elizabeth O'Brien at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The LEAD Group Inc. (TLG) held Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 6 pm Sydney | London 8 am | Auckland 8 pm. Our AGM falls during:

- The week of the 23rd International Lead Poisoning Awareness Day (as declared by The LEAD Group on 20th October 2001),
- The 27th Lead Poisoning Awareness Week (as declared by NSW Health Minister Dr Andrew Refshauge in 1997), and
- The 11th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action 22nd -28th October 2023 (as declared by the World Health Organization in 2013, in response to a 2010 proposal from Elizabeth O'Brien).

President's Report by Elizabeth O'Brien and Lucinda Curran on behalf of Michelle Calvert

In this, our 33rd year of operation, we've continued to strive towards creating a lead-safe Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom by 2031 and a lead-safe world by 2041, and to protect the environment from lead - having clarified our goal at our last AGM.

We've again provided thousands of Australian enquirers with free information and referrals on lead-safety and the prevention and management of lead contamination of the environment.

A major focus of this year has been the creation of the **Model National Public Health Policy on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning**, which spans over 67 pages and utilises over 60 references. This is available online for download and to read starting at the Directory page here <https://leadsafeworld.com/directory>. This is the crowning achievement of The LEAD Group's 33 years of accumulating and disseminating lead knowledge.

This epic document was authored by:

- Elizabeth O'Brien, BSc, Grad Dip Health Ed;
- with Lucinda Curran, MA, BHSc, Adv Dip Building Biology, Dip T;
- Dr. Andreas K Breitbarth, MBBS, MPH, BPsych (Hons);
- Ananda Card (NZ), BA;
- Tim Pye (UK), BSc;
- Anne Roberts, BArch;

with review comments by the following members of The LEAD Group's Technical Advisory Board members Prof Mark Patrick Taylor, Dr Marc Grunseit, Prof Peter Newman, Coordinating Lead Author for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Transport, Jenna Barnes, Michael Mobbs, Andrew Hobday, Prof Richard Banati, Dr Chloë Mason, The LEAD Group



THE LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT DESIGN GROUP INCORPORATED AIMS TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING GLOBALLY AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ECOSYSTEM IS PROTECTED FROM LEAD IN ALL ITS USES.
ABN 25 819 463 114

Inc., Australia; Lead Aware NZ (New Zealand); and LEAPP Alliance, UK – Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning Prevention Alliance – A joint initiative of the Lead Containing Materials Association, Lead in Water and Lead Safe World UK (United Kingdom).

As well, we created a 3-page summary document, which can be read and downloaded from <https://leadsafeworld.com/national-lead-safety-policy/>. Please find this attached.

Given that a large bulk of Elizabeth’s time, along with our wonderful part-paid mostly-volunteer Farrah’s time is spent answering queries about testing and Kit processing, I had Lucinda Curran make changes to the Kit Shop to include explanations, easier ways to locate the right add-ons as well as turning Elizabeth’s flow chart into a quiz to help potential customers



self-select which Kits would serve them best. The quiz is available here <https://leadsafeworld.com/what-should-i-test-for-lead/> and provides useful information that relates to the customers’ answers as they go, and directs them to the most appropriate test kits. Lucinda’s done a fabulous job re-vitalising the Shop and we’ve seen our total Kit sales this FY reach \$26,682.00. While this amount is fairly consistent with previous years, overall it has resulted in fewer queries, freeing Elizabeth up to use her expertise elsewhere.

Our newest conversion from being a staff member to mostly a volunteer on the team, Lizzie Choo, was previously a key staff member of the Lead Archives Digitisation Project (LADP) Team. Lizzie’s time is entirely taken up with the continuing LADP plus she’s taken on a new role as a Bookkeeper - doing MYOB Data-Entry!



Another win for us was that Elizabeth finally convinced (after 5 years of requesting it) WHO to maintain online the ILPPWA events from the previous year for historical comparisons (the number of countries/events) of FY2023 (Oct 2022) Events at <https://www.who.int/campaigns/international-lead-poisoning-prevention-week/2022/list-of-registered-events>



THE LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT DESIGN GROUP INCORPORATED AIMS TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING GLOBALLY AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ECOSYSTEM IS PROTECTED FROM LEAD IN ALL ITS USES.
ABN 25 819 463 114

and they've also got a page showing the main theme of each year back to 2018, accessible via <https://www.who.int/campaigns/international-lead-poisoning-prevention-week/> - that is (see overleaf):



International lead poisoning prevention week
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2023 - End Childhood Lead Poisoning
📅 22 - 28 October 2023



International lead poisoning prevention week
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2022 - Say no to lead poisoning
📅 23 - 29 October 2022



International lead poisoning prevention week
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2021 - Working together for a world without lead paint
📅 24 - 30 October 2021



International lead poisoning prevention week
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2020 - Accelerate the global phase out of lead paint
📅 25 - 31 October 2020



International lead poisoning prevention week
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2019 - Ban Lead Paint
📅 25 - 31 October 2019

International lead poisoning prevention week
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2018 - Eliminating Lead paint
📅 21 - 27 October 2018



THE LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT DESIGN GROUP INCORPORATED AIMS TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING GLOBALLY AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ECOSYSTEM IS PROTECTED FROM LEAD IN ALL ITS USES.
 ABN 25 819 463 114

LEAD Group Social Media Presence

We've also begun more regular social media (SM) posting with a focus on encouraging interaction, increasing Kit sales and being seen as a reliable source of information for our followers. This task has been given to Lucinda to oversee and our focused work on the Model National Policy for most of the FY put a halt to social media posting due to lack of time. But we now have a visually branded social media presence for Elizabeth O'Brien as #GrandmaLead and have also been using the platforms as a semi-webpage presence. When posting regularly, we saw an increase in our reach, views and likes.

Lucinda has a unique and beautiful graphics and writing style that obviously succeeds in SM!





Other tasks that were completed after the National Policy writing marathon was over:

- Blog posts on our LeadSafeWorld.com website
 - *Minimising Lead Exposure* <https://leadsafeworld.com/minimising-lead-exposure/>
 - *Lead Poisoning... The Perfect Predator* <https://leadsafeworld.com/lead-poisoning-the-perfect-predator/>
 - *Eliminate Lead from Drinking Water* <https://leadsafeworld.com/eliminate-lead-from-drinking-water/>
 - *Virtual Walk/Run ILPPWA2023* <https://leadsafeworld.com/virtual-walk-run/>
 - *Leaded Paint in Your Rental?* <https://leadsafeworld.com/leaded-paint-in-your-rental/>
- Solutions added to our LeadSafeWorld.com website
 - Model National Lead Safety Policy Proposal – Towards a Lead-Safe World (full document and summary) (URLs provided on page 1)
 - *Industrial Lead Paint Management in Australia: Class 5 Certification with the PCCP – Info Pack Q&A* <https://leadsafeworld.com/industrial-lead-paint-management/>

Funding Application sent to the Australian Prime Minister on 11th April 2023

Elizabeth found an instant in time while writing the National Policy to both email on 11th April 2023 and then deliver (a week later) a printed copy (with some books including one on Aboriginal Spirituality) to Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, PM with the following requests:

Can we please start with:

- 1) A grant of \$100,000 to The LEAD Group to collaborate with governments and academics to develop both a national lead-safety policy and The LEAD Group's lead-safety intellectual property ready for export to offset the burden of Australia being the world's biggest lead exporter; and
- 2) A purchase order of \$150,000 for LEAD Group DIY sampling (and laboratory lead testing) Kits for every young child in public housing or living in poverty in an inner city area, and in every lead-mining and smelting town, and every lead-acid battery manufacturing or recycling suburb, in the upcoming May Budget?

Despite the Prime Minister being Elizabeth's local Federal Member of Parliament, and that he had promised to help "when we are the government" over a decade earlier, Elizabeth has not received a reply to her enthusiastic and beneficial proposals as yet.

Other activities in FY 2023

- Where time allows, Lucinda is updating content to enhance search engine optimisation, correcting formatting, and other website maintenance duties. A problem area that she has identified is that our e-newsletters *LEAD Action News (LANs)* are uploaded to the site as PDFs, which are not indexed and therefore do not help us with SEO. As such, new content is added as text, often with an option to download the PDFs.



THE LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT DESIGN GROUP INCORPORATED AIMS TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING GLOBALLY AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ECOSYSTEM IS PROTECTED FROM LEAD IN ALL ITS USES.
ABN 25 819 463 114

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their tireless work and efforts to further us towards our lead-safe mission – Farrah Shabestari, Lizzie Choo, Madeleine Bezzina (accountant), Earnest Thomas, Abraham Thomas and others on the Lead Test Results Website Team and Jimmy Yang who has been our volunteer Webmaster for many years now, including uploading all the 2022 Volcano Art Prize (VAP) entries at www.volcanoartprize.com ... Thankyou all for everything you do!



Call for Volunteers

As per last year, we haven't secured any staff to submit new grant applications or follow-up outstanding ones. As always, volunteers for this role are always welcome!