



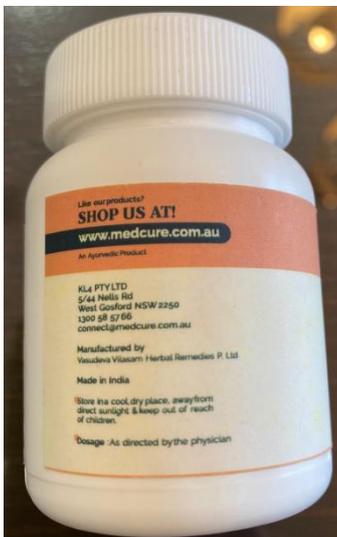
October Lead Blitz to locate people lead poisoned by Ayurvedic medicines or reuse painted timber

Media release – Wednesday 30th September 2020

Two Sydney families are reeling since the recent discovery of lead poisoning of their 1, 3 and 5 year old children. In September, both families finally located the lead sources.

The LEAD Group charity is running an October Blitz to help other people locate and remove seriously lead-contaminated products causing the lead poisoning of children and adults alike.

Lead Scientist for the Group, Elizabeth O'Brien advises, "if you have products like these at home, you really need to read about these two cases in [LEAD Action News](#), organise blood lead testing through your GP and if results are elevated, get potentially leaded stuff tested at a lab via a LEAD Group Kit so you also receive interpretation of the results. If results are astronomical, like these, The LEAD Group will also advise you on how to complain to government, the supplier, importer, and manufacturer."



Leaded Product imported from India, sold in Australia:

This Medcure Manasamithra vatika Ayurvedic medication, made in India by Vasudeva Vilasam, purchased for \$80 from Rama Prasad at Bondi Junction in May 2020 has caused a notifiable blood lead level in a 3 year old. Like other highly toxic Ayurvedic medications, this one contains Bhasmas (ashes of Metals): Swarna Bhasma (sacred ash of gold), ash of silver (Rajata Bhasma), ash of iron (Loha Bhasma), iron pyrite (Tapyra – Makshika Bhasma) that is, intentionally added **1.08% lead** (enough to poison both children and adults)! Check the ingredients lists of your Ayurvedic medicines and get a blood lead test if Bhasmas or Ash are on it.



Leaded Product made and sold in Australia:

This re-use painted timber dining table purchased for \$1200 from Mitchell Road Antiques, Alexandria, Sydney, in September 2014, contains **2.8%** lead in the degraded paint and has caused notifiable blood lead levels in three children in July-September 2020. Despite one of the children having a notifiable blood lead level a year ago, it was only when The LEAD Group Kit results came in September 2020 that it was evident all three children were

ingesting lead from this table their entire lives.

October is Lead Poisoning Awareness Month in the US. Sun Oct 25th to Sat Oct 31st 2020 is the WHO/UN International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action. The LEAD Group will present findings of our October Blitz to the media during the Lead Week of Action 2020.

Contact Elizabeth O'Brien, Lead Scientist & Lead Advisor, The LEAD Group Inc, mobile 0431184933 ###