LEAD Action NEWS

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Australian Lead and Duty of Care

Since The LEAD Group was founded in 1991, Australia has ranked the number one exporter of lead. Once Australian lead is exported, it is then practically completely uncontrollable as to the emissions from its smelting, refining, manufacturing, recycling, being traded as leaded waste (despite the Basel Convention) or its dumping. Decisions on what it is made in to, whether it is recycled or dumped, where it goes next, and whether it is cleaned up from where it sits in every environmental medium, are random and virtually always based on short-term profit motives. Most Australians wouldn't have a clue that Australian lead has caused untold multiples worth of economic damage to the world – 7% of global GDP - and costs the world vastly more than any royalties or taxes retained in Australia for the benefit of Australians.

Duty of Care is a concept I was first taught in Teachers College but when I discovered in 1991 that my children were lead poisoned, I developed a very strong sense of not only a duty to my own children, but to all children - to protect them from lead. This global Duty of Care about the impacts of Australian lead in particular, has resulted in The LEAD Group playing a role in, among other things: the world-first phasing out of lead compounds being added to nearly all types of paint in Australia in 2021 and the slated phaseout from all types of paint in Australia by 2029; the phase-out of lead being added to petrol for motor vehicles in Australia in 2002 and globally in 2021; the annual marking, since 2013, of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) by the WHO and UN; and the "Model National Lead Safety Policy Proposal by The LEAD Group" being added to UNICEF's Partnership for a Lead Free Future (PLF) Knowledge Library.

Welcome to LEAD Action News vol 24 no 3! So much to talk about….

Volcano Art Prize 2026 Winners Announcement!

The Volcano Art Prize (VAP) 2026 Judges have chosen two Joint First Prize winners of $200 each, and 30 prize winners of a mug or bag from our wonderful sponsor Pictureproducts and you helped pick the 2026 People's Choice prizewinner. See all the prizewinners among all the entries at https://volcanoartprize.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/VAP-2026-Cash-Pictureproducts-Prize-Winners-Judge-Commended-among-All-Entries.pdf [LID 30028] and the penultimate article in this newsletter (so the list is on all three of our websites). **It's easy to create a VAP entry!! See Join us on our Global Lead Awareness – its easy to make a Volcano Art Prize entry! VAP 2027 entry deadline is 26th July 2027.**