

# LEAD COMMUNITY GROUPS IN NSW

Since the 1960s health, environment, advocacy and community groups have campaigned on lead issues in Australia (Table 1). Some groups have dealt with lead contamination as part of broader health or environmental issues, including:

- historical and contemporary contamination of the environment;
- the effects on children's health;
- the export of lead waste to developing countries; and
- the regulation of industry emissions.

Several groups have focused on specific locations, concentrating their attention on developments or industries such as waste disposal facilities or chemical factories.

Four NSW community groups focus specifically on lead issues:

## THE LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT DESIGN (LEAD) GROUP

The Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group, based in Sydney, was established in 1991 by a group of parents whose children's health had been affected by lead. The group's goal is "to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2002 and protect the environment from lead". The LEAD Group's two main areas of activity are community education and advocacy on lead issues. The NSW Government currently funds the Group to run the Lead Advisory Service (NSW), which provides a range of free services to parents and the community, including:

- free information and advice via a free call phone service;
- referrals to a range of lead specialists;
- parent education seminars; and
- publication of a range of information materials and a newsletter.

The free call phone of the Lead Advisory Service (NSW) (1800 626 086) receives more than 300 calls a month from concerned parents.

## NORTHERN LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DEFENCE (NO LEAD)

Northern Lakes Environmental Action Defence (NO LEAD) was formed in 1990, following residents' concerns of environmental contamination from a lead-zinc smelter at North Lake Macquarie. The smelter has been in operation since last century. The group focuses on child health and the environment and has been campaigning for the reduction of emissions from the smelter and the remediation of North Lake Macquarie.

## MARAYONG ACTION GROUP

The Marayong Action Group was formed in 1993 by residents living near a proposed lead-acid battery factory plant in the western Sydney suburb of Marayong. As a result of the high level of community concern, conditions were attached to the development proposal to deal with lead contamination issues. The group is still represented on the community forum set up as part of the development conditions.

## ILLAWARRA RESIDENTS AGAINST TOXIC ENVIRONMENTS (IRATE)

The IRATE group was formed by residents concerned about the health and environment effects of current emissions and historical contamination from heavy industry in the Port Kembla area, south of Wollongong.

The organisation participates in a range of committees that consider environmental issues associated with lead and other pollutants. It is also involved in developing community awareness about the effects of lead.

Further information is available from Elizabeth O'Brien, 9716 0014.

TABLE 1

### ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED WITH LEAD ISSUES

Group	Issue
ADI Residents Action Group	Pollution at Australian Defence Industry sites
Ardeer Residents Group	Lead-acid battery factory
Australian Chemical Trauma Alliance	Toxic chemicals and contamination
Australian Conservation Foundation	Environment
Broken Hill Residents Action Group	Lead issues in Broken Hill
Consumers Health Forum	Consumer advocacy
Friends of the Earth	Environment
Greenpeace	Environment
Illawarra Residents Against Toxic Environments (IRATE)	Heavy industry in Port Kembla
Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development	Leaded petrol and urban environment
Inner City Residents Assisting their Environment	Waterloo incinerator
Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group	Community education and advocacy
Marayong Action Group	Lead-acid battery factory
National Toxics Network	Chemicals
Northern Lakes Environmental Action Defence (NO LEAD)	Lead-zinc smelter at North Lake Macquarie
Public Interest Advocacy Centre	Public interest and advocacy issues
Total Environment Centre	Environment