



Media Release

SA Health

Tuesday, 12 October 2010

WATER FLUORIDATION TO BEGIN IN MOUNT GAMBIER

Letters have been sent to local residents from SA Health and SA Water to inform them that the Mount Gambier fluoride plant will become operational on 14 October.

SA Water South East Service Delivery Manager, Janina Morrison, said controlled amounts of fluoride will begin to be introduced to the Mount Gambier water supply after it is taken from the Blue Lake.

“Similar fluoridation systems in Adelaide and most regional areas of South Australia have been adding fluoride to drinking water for many years,” said Ms Morrison.

“Tap water will remain completely safe to drink and you will not notice any difference to its taste or quality.”

Dr Martin Dooland, Director, SA Dental Service, said that the letter and fact sheet outlined the benefits of water fluoridation to the community.

“Fluoride safely and effectively protects teeth from decay and adding it to drinking water is the most effective way to enable everyone to have the benefits of fluoride,” said Dr Dooland.

“This will provide the community’s children and adults with additional protection against tooth decay.

“Children who live in areas supplied with fluoridated water have less tooth decay.


“Data routinely collected by our School Dental Service for over 30 years consistently shows that children in Mount Gambier have much more decay than children from Adelaide, which has had a fluoridated water supply since 1971. In 2004, this difference was 78 percent.

“Strong teeth result in fewer fillings, fewer extractions, fewer visits to the dentist and lower dental bills- resulting in better overall health.”

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that water fluoridation as a safe and effective public health measure. Many organisations, including the World Health Organization and Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council, endorse water fluoridation for protecting teeth against decay.

For more information

Call the SA Health Media Line
Telephone: 08 8226 6488



The water supplies of all capital cities in other States are fluoridated, as are most major and many smaller country centres.

Residents with enquiries regarding water fluoridation should contact SA Health on 82267100, or for information regarding the treatment facility, contact SA Water on 1800 812 362.

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of South Australia**

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