Macquarie University’s Public Health Research Network (PHRN): Launched in 2011, the PHRN brings together researchers from across Macquarie University who undertake research involving environmental health, global health, health communication and promotion, health psychology, emotional and mental health, health policy and economics, epidemiology and biostatistics. There is also considerable expertise in children’s health across many of these areas.

Further information: www.mq.edu.au/public-health-research-network

Invites you to attend a forum on

Eliminating Childhood Lead Toxicity in Australia – A Little is Still Too Much

Tuesday 5 June 2012, 9.45am to 4pm
Room – X5B 292 Music Room
Campus map: http://www.mq.edu.au/on_campus/maps/campus_map/
Followed by a reception from 4-5pm

Despite the decline in childhood lead poisoning, lead toxicity remains a major public health problem in Australia. In some communities, 3 in 10 children develop lead poisoning, defined as having a blood lead over 10 μg/dL. Moreover, new research has consistently found that blood lead concentrations below 5 μg/dL are associated with IQ deficits, learning problems and behavioral problems in children, such as ADHD. These studies confirm the National Health and Medical Research Council's view that there is no safe level of lead exposure, particularly for children who are most at risk.

This forum will examine the evidence for lowering the Australian blood lead goal of 10 μg/dL and the implications of such action. National and international speakers have been invited and we welcome all interested persons to contribute to the forum.

The forum will consist of a series of short talks followed by facilitated discussion. The themes covered will include: effects of exposure at blood lead levels below 10 μg/dL; the epidemiology of lead exposure in Australia; the impact of lead poisoning on families and; preventing lead poisoning in Australian communities. The day will conclude with the objective of trying to find a consensus on a way forward for better identifying those at risk and protecting them from preventable lead exposures.

A schedule for the day can be located at: www.mq.edu.au/public-health-research-network

RSVP: Friday 1 June 2012
Prof Mark P Taylor
Ph. (02) 9850 4221
Email: blood.lead@mq.edu.au
Eliminating Childhood Lead Toxicity in Australia – A Little is Still Too Much
Macquarie University – June 5th 2012

9.45 am - 9.55 am – Welcome (Professor Gail Whiteford, Pro Vice Chancellor, Macquarie University)

Session 1 - Overview of environmental lead exposures

9.55 am - 10.15 am

Lead toxicity: the ongoing search for a threshold.
Speaker - Professor B.P. Lanphear, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver.

10.15 am - 10.45 am

Environmental lead exposures in Australia.
Speaker - Professor M.P. Taylor, Environmental Science, Macquarie University.

10.45 am - 11.00 am

Morning Coffee break

Session 2 - Research and implications for Australia

Session facilitated by Professor Brian Gulson, Emeritus Professor, Macquarie University.

11.00 am - 11.20 am

Epidemiological lead research in Australian communities.
Speaker - Dr David Simon, SA Health, South Australia.

11.20 am - 11.40 am

Biomarkers of lead exposure in humans.
Speaker – Professor Manish Arora, Environmental and Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, & Institute of Dental Research, and Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sydney, NSW, Australia.

11.40 am - 12.00 noon

The efficacy of educational interventions for mitigating lead exposure.
Speaker - Dr Susan Woolfenden, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, Sydney Children's Community Health Centre, Randwick, Australia.

12.00 noon - 12.30 pm

Discussion - facilitated by Professor Brian Gulson.

12.30 pm to 1.30pm

Lunch
Session 3 - Preventing Lead Poisoning

Session facilitated by Professor Peter Sly, Queensland Children's Medical Research Institute, University of Queensland.

1.30 pm - 1.45pm
Personal experience of lead poisoning in the community.
Speaker - Sergeant Jeff Farmer, Port Stephens, NSW.

1.45 am - 2.00 pm
The science of preventing childhood lead toxicity.
Speaker - Professor B.P. Lanphear.

2.00 pm - 2.30 pm
Standards and regulation for environmental lead exposure.
Speaker – TBC from South Australia EPA.

2.30 pm - 2.45 pm
Consumer products and lead exposures.
Speaker - Elizabeth O’Brien, Manager, Global Lead Advice & Support Service (GLASS), NSW,

2.45 pm - 3.15 pm
Discussion - facilitated by Professor Peter Sly.

3.15 pm - 3.30 pm
Afternoon tea

Session 4 - Concluding comments and a consensus for a way forward

3.30 pm - 4.00 pm
Session facilitated by Professor Chris Winder, Professor of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment, Faculty of Business, Australian Catholic University, Sydney.

Close of Meeting - 4.00 pm