## **Macquarie University**

Public Health Network

Supported by

**Faculty of Science** 

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## 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  $\mu$ g/dL. Moreover, new research has consistently found that blood lead concentrations below 5  $\mu$ g/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  $\mu$ g/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  $\mu$ g/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

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

RSVP: Friday 1 June 2012

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