

Fluoridation coverage now up to 90% in Victoria

Fluoridation coverage has also been expanding in the Australian State of Victoria over recent years. Since 2006, the following communities have all had additional fluoride introduced to their water supplies to help reduce tooth decay:

Geelong (pop 161,000)
Ballarat (pop 96,000)
Warrnambool (pop 34,000)
Mildura (pop 30,000)
Wodonga (pop 30,000)
Traralgon (pop 22,000)
Wangaratta (pop 17,000)
Moe (pop 15,000)
Horsham (pop 14,000)
Morwell (pop 13,000)
Sale (pop 13,000)
Warragul (pop 13,000)
Bairnsdale (pop 11,000)

Colac (pop 11,000)
Swan Hill (pop 10,000)
Benalla (pop 9,000)
Hamilton (pop 9,000)
Castlemaine (pop 7,000)
Phillip Island (pop 7,000)
Seymour (pop 6,000)
Yarrawonga (pop 6,000)
Kerang (pop 4,000)
Lakes Entrance (pop 4,000)
Kyabram (pop 2,000)
Robinvale (pop 2,000)

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Melbourne, the second largest city in Australia with a population of 4.1 million, has had fluoridated water supplies since 1977. Around 90% of the State's population now receives optimally fluoridated water.

When natural fluoridation is taken into account, around 90% of population in the State are now receiving optimally fluoridated water. It means that number of people benefiting from this public health measure has now risen to just under 5 million. The largest city and State capital, Melbourne (population 4 million) has been supplied with fluoridated water since 1977.

In a statement issued in 2010 the Victorian government said: "The government is committed to ensuring Victorians are not disadvantaged by where they live in terms of receiving the proven health benefits of water fluoridation. A programme is under way to extend water fluoridation to those parts of Victoria which do not currently have access to this important and effective public health measure."

