

Fluoridation coverage now up to 95% in New South Wales

Between 2004 and 2012 the proportion of New South Wales residents receiving fluoridated water has risen from around 90% to 95%.

This followed a State-wide drive to oral health inequalities between people living in the largely fluoridated urban areas and those in non-fluoridated rural areas. During that period, a total of 16 local councils went ahead with new fluoridation schemes.

Just under 7 million people now benefiting in the State

The expansion of water fluoridation coverage means that some 6.9 million people in New South Wales are now benefiting from this public health measure. The largest city and State capital, Sydney (population 4.6 million) has been supplied with fluoridated water since 1968.

The latest new scheme came into operation in February 2012 in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area between Sydney and Brisbane on Australia's east coast.

Plans to extend coverage further to 98% of the NSW population

There are plans in place to extend the State's fluoridation coverage even further in its more remote rural areas and, ultimately, to reach a total of 98% of the New South Wales population.

continued



Port Macquarie, New South Wales, where a new fluoridation scheme was introduced in February 2012 to help extend the dental benefits to more people in the State.

Polls showed over 87% support across the State

Over recent years the New South Wales Health Department has conducted surveys to ascertain levels of public support for water fluoridation. Figures from its polling in 2008 showed that over 87.4% of people questioned across the State were in favour.

As part of the expansion programme, additional surveys were conducted in 12 rural areas to find out whether local people wanted to see fluoridation schemes introduced. Overall, 70% of those interviewed said they agreed with adding fluoride to their water supply to prevent tooth decay.

NSW Health Department opinion survey, 2008

The 2008 State-wide poll found that 87.4% of those questioned were in favour of water fluoridation.



Sydney, the largest city in Australia with a population of 4.6 million, has had fluoridated water supplies since 1968.