



The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP

Prime Minister of Australia

Member for Wentworth

6th November 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

Our organisation extends heartfelt congratulations on your tremendous achievement of becoming Australia's twenty-ninth Prime Minister.

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of **The Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group Inc.** We are a small not-for-profit community organisation which develops and provides information and referrals on lead poisoning, lead contamination prevention and management.

In 2007, as Minister for the Environment you generously provided us with funding to combat "chemicals of concern". Unfortunately this grant was revoked by the Abbott Government. Thus, the purpose of this letter is to demonstrate our work adds real value to business, the community and academia and to illustrate how invaluable Federal funding is to our cause. While we understand that there are many issues requiring your office's attention we hope you will again support this one. Key points:

- 1. Capacity Constraints** – The funding received during 2007-2013 from the Federal Department of the Environment allowed us to develop new links with lead-safety businesses. We provided awareness of easy, low-cost lead testing and gave advice to hundreds of businesses and individuals, which resulted in better business practices and better management of lead risks in the environment.
- 2. A win-win for Sustainable Business** – Being proactive is the key to minimising the risk of lead in the environment. Businesses nationwide can capitalise on opportunities in environmental restoration and reporting.
- 3. Best Practice Testing** – Lead testing is at the core of our community organisation. Our DIY Lead Test Kits utilise a nationally accredited laboratory for reliability, which is recognised by all levels of Australian government..
- 4. Smart investment in prevention** – Our organisation maintains one of the world's largest online lead-related library databases; an invaluable asset to academia and members of the public. Preventative approaches reduce the risk of lead exposure and funding supports will maintain the service we provide, which in turns protects public health.
- 5. New markets** – We plan to explore strategic partnerships with New Zealand, Indian, Indonesian, Chinese NGOs & labs, strengthening common bonds & promoting Australia's brand in key markets. Demand for environmental services is growing in our region, and lead safety is part of this.
- 6. Community links** – Our organisation has the confidence of local businesses and the community. We count Federal and State Departments among our clients. Advice is provided by phone & email through LEADLINE – our free lead information service.

We are a small organisation who works proactively to secure sustainable outcomes and limit the long-term damage associated with lead exposure. While we have a great product and international repute, we have found private funding for full time staff difficult to source.

With your help we can scale up our operations, ease the concerns of an environmentally-aware society and reduce the risk to tax payers by helping to eliminate lead exposure damage. We hope to secure a small grant – up to \$250,000/annum - and one day, congratulate you as the Prime Minister who helped create a lead-safe Australia.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Mark Taylor

President, The LEAD Group Inc.

Macquarie University, Professor of Environmental Science