



LeadSmart School Program set to benefit local children

Broken Hill children will now learn the skills to help them tackle the local lead issue thanks to a new program launched today by the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program.

Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program Steering Committee Chairperson Marion Browne said the LeadSmart School Education Program has been developed to deliver lifelong learning outcomes, so children are equipped with the skills to address the local lead issue into the future.

“In Broken Hill there are risks of lead exposure. It has accumulated over many years in the dust, dirt and soil in and around our homes and in public spaces. Lead can be harmful to people of all ages, but the risk is highest for unborn babies, infants and young children.

“That’s why we’ve worked with qualified teachers to develop this curriculum-linked, school-based program. It’s all about ensuring our preschool to year 6 children are empowered with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to make safer and healthier choices to help protect themselves and others from lead harm – at home, at school and across the community,” Ms Browne said.

Ms Browne explained that the program is not a one-off or one-dimensional education intervention – it’s designed to engage students from an early age through to year 6.

“Through our partnership with local schools, teachers will now have access to 18 targeted lesson plans and supporting interactive activities to deliver into classrooms year-on-year - building on learnings from preschool right through to year 6.

“To complement the teacher-led program, specially trained LeadSmart facilitators will be joined by the lovable life-sized mascot, Lead Ted Jnr, to deliver two fun-filled roadshows into local preschools and kindergarten to year 2 classrooms.”

Ms Browne said the Lead Ted Roadshows are designed to intrigue and excite children, whilst presenting important LeadSmart messages.

“Children will learn how to be LeadSmart through games, songs, dancing and animations - capturing their imagination and leaving a lasting impact.”

Amanda Simmons, a classroom teacher at Morgan Street Public School, said that she welcomed the launch of this important education resource for local teachers and students.

“We recently piloted the Lead Ted Roadshow and lesson plans at our school. The entire program was very interactive, engaging and easy to get for the ages of the children.

“I encourage local teachers to hop on board and add this fantastic local program to their suite of existing teaching resources aligned with key learning areas and important health-based outcomes for local children.”

Local teachers can access the teaching resources or book a Lead Ted Roadshow by visiting the education pages on the LeadSmart website, www.leadsmart.nsw.gov.au