**Myth:** Fluoride causes cancer

**Fact**  Scientific studies from around the world have failed to demonstrate a link between water fluoridation and any type of cancer.

**Fact**  Cancer rates in the rest of Australia (mostly fluoridated for decades) are no higher than in Queensland (largely non-fluoridated until 2008).

**Myth:** Fluoride causes allergies

**Fact**  Fluoride is found naturally in most foods and water.

**Fact**  Reviews by peak health bodies around the world show no connection between water fluoridation and allergies, hypersensitivity or other immunological effects.

**Myth:** Fluoride causes arthritis

**Fact**  The incidence of arthritis is no different in fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities, and there has never been any evidence from doctors, let alone published studies, suggesting this.

**Fact**  Arthritis Australia has endorsed water fluoridation, stating that “Arthritis Australia is in favour of water fluoridation. There is no reputable scientific evidence that water fluoridation causes or worsens symptoms of arthritis”.

**Myth:** Water fluoridation is banned in Europe

**Fact**  No country has banned water fluoridation.

**Fact**  Many countries use salt fluoridation as an alternative.

**Myth:** Fluoride causes bone fractures

**Fact**  All Australian capital cities (except Brisbane) have been fluoridated for decades and have not seen an increase in bone fractures or other ill effects. Water fluoridation has been endorsed by Osteoporosis Australia.

**Myth:** Water fluoridation is bad for babies

**Fact**  Water fluoridation has been endorsed by the World Health Organization, Australian Medical Association and American Academy of Pediatrics, and poses no known health risks for babies and young children.

**Myth:** Infant formula contains high levels of fluoride when mixed with fluoridated water

**Fact**  Recent Australian studies show no link between the use of infant formulas and dental fluorosis.

**Fact**  Fluoridated water can be safely used to reconstitute infant formula.

**Myth:** Water fluoridation causes excessive dental fluorosis

**Fact**  The only known side effect of optimal water fluoridation is a slight increase in dental fluorosis levels.

**Fact**  Most fluorosis is barely detectable and does not damage the teeth, whereas tooth decay is painful, unsightly and expensive to repair.

**Myth:** Water fluoridation is mass medication

**Fact**  The Department of Health does not consider the addition of fluoride to drinking water to be ‘mass medication’, but simply adjusting the level of a substance already found naturally in the water to provide a substantial public health benefit.