

Executive summary

GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) was engaged by Nhulunbuy Corporation Pty Ltd to undertake community consultation in relation to the idea of adding fluoride to the town water supply to potentially improve dental health.

Consultation was undertaken during November 2019 through a range of mechanisms:

- Face-to-face meetings with key organisations in the community
- An information display held outside Gove Tackleworld
- An online survey on Nhulunbuy Corporation's website
- Social media posts on community Facebook sites.

In total, feedback received via the above tools was:

- 261 online surveys completed
- 11 people visited the information display
- 4 people either called or emailed Nhulunbuy Corporation directly
- 5 face-to-face meetings were held
- 5 organisations declined a meeting but offered to share information through their networks
- 1 organisation cancelled the meeting because they fully support fluoridation.

Additionally, a range of comments were received on the Facebook posts on Gove and Nhulunbuy Community Noticeboards.

Feedback indicates that **there is not strong support** for progressing fluoridation of Nhulunbuy's town water. Of 261 survey respondents, 58% oppose water fluoridation.

Face-to-face discussions through meetings and the information stall attracted mixed views on the topic, with a number of people unsure due to a lack of information.

Consultation indicated that the community had concerns regarding potential negative health impacts from chemicals being added to the water as well as changes to the taste and smell of the water. A small number of people raised concerns about the management and implementation of fluoride being added to the water. A significant number of people responded positively to having access to further information on water fluoridation.



Figure 1 GHD talking with the community in Nhulunbuy