



Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
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19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

RE: Minamata Convention on Mercury

Dear Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

I wish to support the ratification on the Minamata Convention on Mercury. My views are my own, although I draw my perspectives with my past and current roles and responsibilities.

I am a registered oral health therapist (AHPRA registration DEN0001602374) and have practiced clinical dentistry in the public and private sector for more than 10 years. I have been held leadership roles with my professional association, the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association. I am the co-convenor of the Public Health Association of Australia Oral Health Special Interest Group and serving my 1<sup>st</sup> term as the Victorian Dental Practitioner Member with the Dental Board of Australia. I am also currently undertaking PhD studies investigating the cost-effectiveness on oral health preventive interventions at Deakin University.

In my experience, the use of dental amalgam in contemporary dentistry as a restorative filling material is no longer appropriate, and has been for some time, being phased out from teaching by dental school, nationally. As noted in the Minamata Convention on Mercury, dental amalgam is detrimental to the environment. It is also a dental material that does not meet the standard of evidence-based dental practice. Whilst it was taught during my undergraduate degree, I have not found an application for the use of dental amalgam since graduation in 2008.

I look forward to the outcome on this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Tan Nguyen  
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