

Every day that you send your child into a classroom with an unflued gas heater operating...

... you are poisoning them.



**COUGH - Campaign Opposing Unflued Gas Heating [cough.org.au](http://cough.org.au)**

## **Media Release**

18 August 2010

# **Angry school communities to target marginal seat voters on election day**

Parents from schools in areas as far apart as Eastwood, Armidale, Coogee, Campbelltown, Mudgee, Balmain, Mittagong, Hazelbrook, the Riverina and Goulburn are so angry at being left off the NSW State Government's unflued gas heaters (UGHs) replacement program they are planning to ask voters this Saturday to sign petitions to get UGHs removed as soon as possible from the schools that missed out.

Parents will focus on marginal seats after the state government reneged on Minister Firth's responsible announcement last month to replace all heaters across the state.

"We have told the government about the decades old dangers of UGHs. In 1989 Hazelbrook public school recorded NO<sub>2</sub> levels many times higher than the outdoor level recommended by the NHMRC," P&C President at Hazelbrook Primary Jo Keown said.

"We have explained to the government that it is not fulfilling its duty of care to our children and their teachers. We have provided the government with all scientific evidence it needed to make the policy change. We have even waited for the \$2million Woolcock study to be completed: the most expensive study of indoor air quality in Australia, funded by the DET, that simply affirmed the results of previous studies. How much longer do we need to wait for this irresponsibility to end?"

"Last week the Premier was sent an open letter from scientific and medical experts around the country requesting that UGHs be removed from NSW public schools. The letter, (see at [www.cough.org.au](http://www.cough.org.au)), urgently calls for the removal of UGHs within two years," said COUGH co-founder Richard Kalina.

"Parents, children, staff and volunteers have been waiting for two decades for these heaters to go. Two decades ago the Department of Education was warned that NO<sub>2</sub> levels recorded during a series of tests in primary schools were of "great concern".

"Why is the government delaying the release of the replacement program for the whole state? Minister Firth's announcement must be endorsed by Cabinet this week with a timeline of two years. We will now ask voters in marginal seats their view."

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Links: letter to Premier <http://bit.ly/9oW3wS> ; 1989 news story: <http://bit.ly/97Z7tR> ; 1991 news story <http://bit.ly/9QQuhK>