



Tamar Air Pollution Where is the proof

Wood smoke levels in Launceston have continued to decrease for the past 10 years. The Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA) attributes this success to community education programs and initiatives. Currently, the Launceston City Council has advised that there are only 20 households in the area that are problem users.

The debate continues and woodheaters seem to be the easy target for alleged Air Quality specialists to point the finger. "Where is the proof that these deaths occurred because of wood heaters. Show me the death certificate that indicated the cause of death "wood heater use" said Ms Brown General Manager of the Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA).

"During the year a number of factors can affect the air we breathe such as bush fires, burning of winter crop stubbles, summer storms, motor vehicle use and the topography of the land around us.

"There is no dispute that old, poorly operated wood heaters can also contribute to pollution, however, it must be noted that so do all heating appliances."

In response to negative publicity Ms Brown said the key to reducing woodsmoke was education about the correct operation of wood heaters and the responsible change over from older style wood heaters.

"Our industry has strongly supported government initiatives to reduce urban wood smoke for many years and has spent more than \$30 million in the last 10 years in developing a new generation of wood heaters that reduce particulate emission levels by 80 per cent," said Ms. Demi Brown General Manager of the Australian Home Heating Association.

The relationship between damp houses, asthma and other ailments is well documented*. Another notable benefit for wood heater users is that unlike most other forms of domestic heating, wood heaters generate enough heat so that some is absorbed by the house structure. A properly heated home will significantly reduce dampness. Wood heating for many sections of the population represents the only economic and practical means of providing enough heat inside the home to achieve this.

The following table shows maximum heat outputs of various forms of domestic heating after taking into account average efficiencies. It is clear that wood heaters provide the most powerful of all economic forms of domestic heating.

Appliance	Effective output
Wood heaters	6-18 KW
Flued gas heaters	4-10 KW
Unflued gas heaters	2-7 KW
Electric	1-2 KW

“People should not underestimate the significant health benefits of living in a warm, dry indoor environment, especially when the outside environment is cold, damp or humid.” Ms Brown said.

Product information and woodheater operation can be found on the AHHA website www.homeheat.com.au

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For further information visit: www.homeheat.com.au