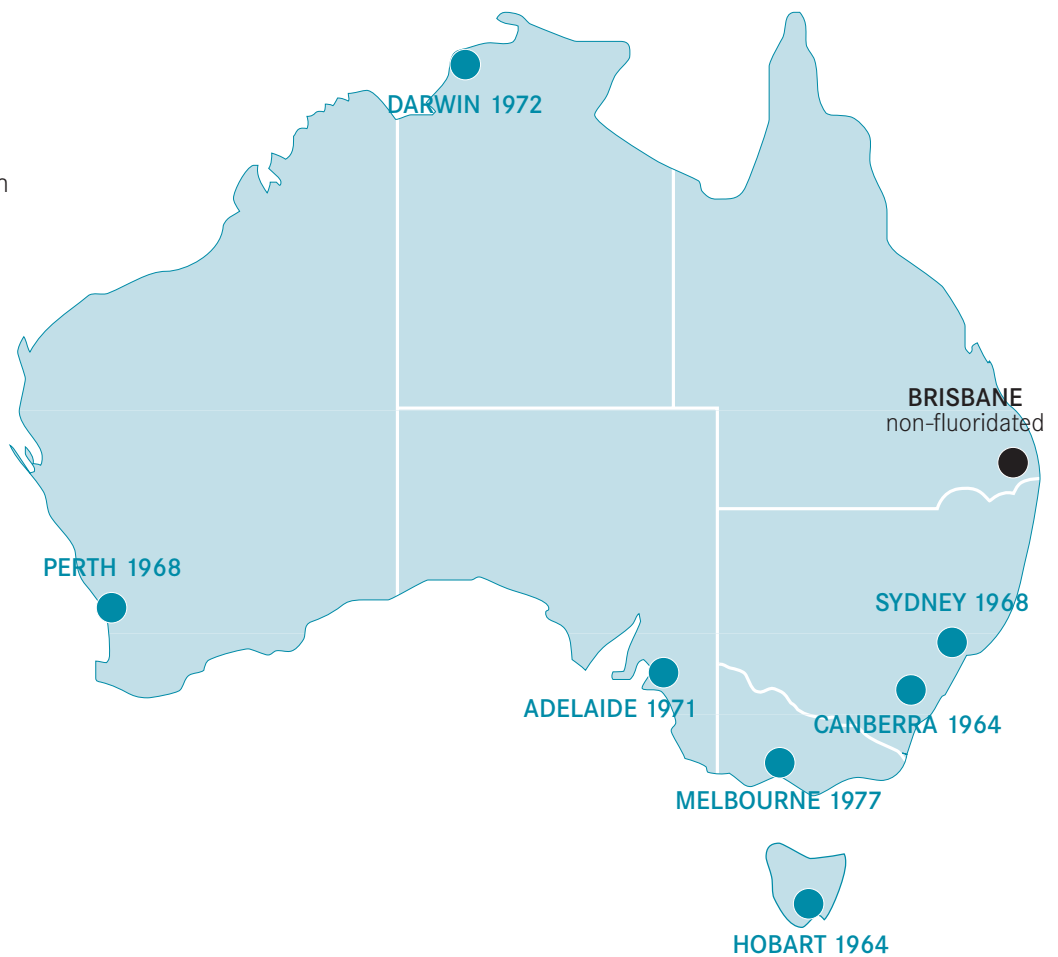


# Water fluoridation in Australia



The first water fluoridation program in Australia was implemented in 1953 in Beaconsfield, Tasmania.<sup>1</sup> More than two-thirds of the Australian population receive fluoridated drinking water,<sup>2</sup> including residents of all capital cities except Brisbane.<sup>3</sup> Within Victoria, more than three-quarters of the population receive fluoridated drinking water,<sup>4</sup> with most of these people living in metropolitan Melbourne and Bendigo, Shepparton, Echuca, Horsham, Sale, Traralgon, Morwell, Moe and Warragul. People in Wangaratta and Wodonga will have access to fluoridated drinking water supplies in 2007. Figures 1 and 2 show the timing of introduction of water fluoridation to cities and towns in Australia and Victoria.

**Figure 1: Dates of introduction of water fluoridation to Australian capital cities.<sup>3</sup>**



1. Committee of Inquiry into the Fluoridation of Victorian Water Supplies 1980. *Report of the committee of inquiry into the fluoridation of Victorian water supplies 1979-80*. Melbourne.
2. Armfield J, 2006. 'The extent of water fluoridation coverage in Australia.' *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 30(6): 581-582.
3. Spencer A, Slade G, Davies M, 1996. 'Water fluoridation in Australia.' *Community Dental Health* 13(suppl 2):27-37.
4. Victorian water authorities' annual reports 2005-06. Victorian population serviced by reticulated water supplies.

