



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

EPA commences SmokeWatch program in Adelaide Hills 21 June 2007

Students from Woodside Primary School will be participating in the EPA's SmokeWatch program from 25 June 2007.

The students are working with the EPA to initiate the 2007 SmokeWatch program and commence air quality monitoring to measure smoke levels in the Woodside area.

EPA Chief Executive Dr Paul Vogel said the incorrect use of wood heaters can seriously affect air quality, and smoke pollution affects neighbours and the environment.

"Wood smoke particles from inefficient heaters float in the air and can be seen as a smoke haze that sometimes sits over built up areas. Not only is this sort of pollution unattractive, it can also be bad for our health" Dr Vogel said.

A SmokeWatch pilot program was successfully implemented in the Adelaide Hills from June until October 2006. This included local community competitions, and educational activities for school students.

In conjunction with the pilot program, the EPA conducted monitoring of fine particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO) in the Woodside area. This was the first time such air quality monitoring had been conducted by the EPA in the Adelaide Hills area.

A report outlining the monitoring results from the 2006 SmokeWatch pilot program is due to be released in July 2007.