the implications of parasites in Sydney water in light of present knowledge about these organisms and their control. The meeting will consider the development of a consensus position on the place of routine testing of water supplies and the management of contamination incidents.

On 6 October 1998, the Victorian health authorities are holding a meeting of invited participants and experts to develop a consensus strategy on central issues.

### Conference

The first Australian Conference on *Cryptosporidium* in Water Conference

Further information is presented below.


### How long should you boil water to make it safe to drink?

The recent incidents of contamination of the Sydney water supply with *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* have generated considerable interest in the issue of how long water should be boiled to make it safe to drink. *CDI* inadvertently muddied the waters (so to speak) in last month’s edition when our ‘Advice for travellers’ recommended that water be boiled for at least 10 minutes. This information was sourced from the fourth edition of the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health’s publication *Health information for international travel*. This reiterates the unreferenced recommendation of earlier editions of the same publication. Our attention has since been drawn to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for boiling water, which were made in September 1994 on the basis of a contemporary literature review.

CDC recommends making water microbiologically safe to drink by bringing it to a rolling boil for one (1) minute. This will inactivate all major waterborne bacterial pathogens (for example, *Vibrio cholerae*, enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella sonnei*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Yersinia enterocolitica* and *Legionella pneumophila*) and waterborne protozoa (for example, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Giardia lamblia*, and *Entamoeba histolytica*). It will also be effective for waterborne viral pathogens such as hepatitis A virus, which is considered one of the more heat-resistant viruses. An increase in boiling time to three (3) minutes is recommended if viral pathogens are suspected in drinking water in communities at elevations above 2 km.