



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

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Dear Dr Morris

Review of Research Priorities on “Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)”

Further to recent interest in the report titled: “A scientific review of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS): Identifying key research needs”, I attach a copy for your information.

MCS is the term used to describe a cluster of symptoms that affects multiple organ systems following very low level exposures to environmental chemicals. To date, no consistent physical findings or biochemical tests have been identified to differentiate MCS patients from the rest of the population. Additionally, no consensus has been emerged on causality of MCS.

The key finding of the review is the need for further research to better understand the causative mechanisms, prevention and management of this condition. In particular, elucidation of the biological basis for MCS will provide directions for clinical diagnosis to improve treatment options for MCS. The review does not identify policy matters, nor does it make any recommendations relevant to Departmental programs.

It is expected that MCS interest groups will use this report to lobby the Government for new research activities as well as to give new impetus to their campaign for the establishment of a national MCS prevention and disability access strategy. NHMRC may find the report useful when considering research priorities in this area. A hard copy of the report is enclosed. The report can also be accessed via the following NICNAS website:
http://nicnas.gov.au/Publications/CAR/Other/MCS_Final_Report_Nov_2010_PDF.pdf.

Yours sincerely

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