

ALCOA REFINERIES — RESIDENT BLOOD TESTING

988. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health:

Regarding the testing for heavy metal accumulation in blood and tissue of long-term residents near Alcoa refineries and residue drying area (mudlakes) in Wagerup and Yarloop, I ask:

- (a) has the Minister or the Department of Health ever been asked by local residents, who live near the refineries, to conduct medical blood or tissue testing;
- (b) have residents been offered medical testing to identify what heavy metal concentration their bodies hold;
- (c) if no to (b), why not;
- (d) what baseline health data is used by the Minister or the department to monitor heavy metal concentration in residents near the refineries, especially in light of the licensed extension of production;
- (e) if no such baseline data is currently available, when will the department collect such data;
- (f) have water tanks in the area been tested regarding heavy metal content and concentration in the water;
- (g) if no to (f), why not;
- (h) given that groundwater extraction is not permitted around the refineries, do similar restrictions exist regarding the use of water tanks;
- (i) if yes to (h), why;
- (j) if no to (h), why not;
- (k) how does the department monitor the health of the residents around the Alcoa plants;
- (l) if the department does not monitor the health of residents around the Alcoa plants, why not;
- (m) why have the residents in Esperance been tested for heavy metal but not the residents in Yarloop and surrounding communities;
- (n) what is the Ministers advice to residents regarding sleep deprivation due to noise from both the rail traffic in the Yarloop rail corridor and Wagerup refinery outside of the Alcoa Area A, and its long term impact on human health; and
- (o) what testing or assistance has been offered to residents who have reported the impact of sleep deprivation due to rail and refinery noise emissions in Yarloop?

Hon Alyssa Hayden replied:

Please refer to Legislative Council Question on Notice 882.