



Public Health Association
AUSTRALIA

3 April 2014

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr Chairman

**RE: Inquiry into the implications for Western Australia of hydraulic fracturing for
unconventional gas transcript of evidence**

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs on behalf of the Public Health Association of Australia in relation to the inquiry into the implications for Western Australia of hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas. Please find below responses to supplementary questions from our appearance:

Page 3: Chairman: How many of those considerations [occupational health risks and other considerations] are already considerations for mining and petroleum activities or is there something extra about fracking operations that we need to look at?

The majority of the occupational risks mentioned in our submission appear to be covered by existing regulations, but these have been developed over many decades. Hydraulic fracturing has really only emerged over the last decade, so whilst the existing regulations are no doubt a good starting point, it may be the case that there are additional, unknown risks to workers not currently covered by regulations.

Page 4 Hon Stephen Dawson: Can you provide more information about the banned chemicals [used in fracking]?

The chemicals referred to are benzene, toluene and xylene, which have been used in the US but are banned for use in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Dr Emma Croager, President
Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) WA Branch