

HEALTH RESEARCH WORKING GROUP, ESTABLISHMENT

25. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) When was the Health Research Working Group established by the Air Quality Coordinating Committee formed?
 - (2) What research has this Group undertaken or commissioned since being formed?
 - (3) What reports or studies has this Group published since its establishment?
 - (4) Are these reports available to the public and if not why not?
 - (5) Who is currently on the Health Research Working Group, what organisation are they from and when does their term expire?
 - (6) How often does this Group meet?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Health Research Working Group (HRWG) of the Air Quality Co-ordinating Committee was formed on 27 November 1998.
- (2) The HRWG was established to provide informed and competent advice on air quality and health effects, and to guide the development of a list of research priorities for investigating the potential impact of air quality on the health of Western Australians. The HRWG was not established to undertake research, nevertheless it has overseen a study on the association between daily air pollution levels and mortality and hospitalisations.
- (3) No reports have yet been published, however the study on mortality and hospitalisations has been subjected to peer review and is currently being revised based on the reviewer's comments.
- (4) The report will be made public once it has been revised and subjected to international peer review.
- (5) The HRWG is comprised of the following individuals. The term of membership has not been specified. Membership of the HRWG was by invitation of experts identified through their contributions to the Select Committee process, by Health Department nomination, and by recommendations from organisations such as the AMA and Asthma Foundation. The Working Group identified other organisations, such as the General Practice Divisions of WA, and experts whom it felt could provide appropriate input to the group's deliberations.

A/Prof J Spickett School Public Health, Curtin University

Prof T Lyons Division Science & Engineering, Murdoch University

Prof Lou Landau Dean Medicine & Dentistry, UWA

Dr Nick de Klerk TVW Childrens Institute

A/Prof Frank Murray Environmental Science, Murdoch University

Dr Jim Codde Epidemiological & Analytical Services, Health WA

Ms Cobie Rudd GP Divisions of WA

Mr Mark Feldwick Health WA

Dr Andrea Hinwood DEP

Ms Jane Heyworth Dept Public Health, UWA

- (6) The group meets on a needs basis, typically 2 to 3 times a year.