

HEALTH, MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

934. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Department of Health recognise multiple chemical sensitivity as an illness?
- (2) Do health regulations which describe the safe levels of chemical emissions take into account the -
 - (a) cumulative impacts over time;
 - (b) the combined effect of more than one chemical; and
 - (c) the synergistic effect of multiple chemicals?
- (3) Do Department of Health regulations apply to workplaces and mine sites?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Health is aware of the controversy associated with multiple chemical sensitivity. This entity is not included in the international classification of diseases. However, the Department of Health recognises that some people may become sensitised to chemicals.
- (2) In determining safe levels of chemical emissions, the Department of Health bases its health advice on national and international guidelines for chemicals in the air. These guidelines are set for individual chemicals and do not address the accumulative, combined, synergistic effect of multiple chemicals.
- (3) No.