



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**

Your ref:
Our ref: A1849/201401
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Ms Lucy Roberts
Principal Research Officer
Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Roberts

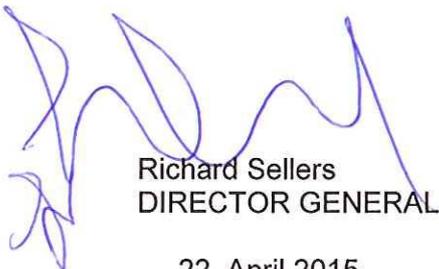
**EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO MENTAL HEALTH
IMPACTS OF FIFO WORK ARRANGEMENTS**

I refer to the letter from Dr Jacobs dated 13 April 2015 regarding statistics reported to DMP of deaths in mines during 2011 to 2015 and our telephone discussion today.

Please find attached the supporting data in relation to the questions from the Committee which you requested today.

I trust that this information will assist the Committee in its Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Richard Sellers
DIRECTOR GENERAL

22 April 2015

Att: DMP response to 13 April 2015 questions from Parliamentary Inquiry into mental health impacts of fly-in, fly-out work arrangements

DMP response to 13 April 2015 Committee questions (discussed at 22 April 2015 hearing)

The questions from the Committee and the responses from the department are as follows:

How many deaths (by any cause) at mine sites (interpreted to include accommodation facilities on a mining tenement) have been reported to DMP for the period FY2011-2015?

	Work-related deaths (mining)	Non-work related deaths (mining)	TOTAL
1 July 2011 - 30 June 2012	2	0	2
1 July 2012 - 30 June 2013	0	4	4
1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014	5	15	20
1 July 2014 - 30 March 2015	2	6	8
TOTAL	9	25	34

Note: These totals differ to those in the Coroner's submission to the Committee because:

- *Prior to 2013, DMP was not receiving many reports from mine sites if deaths were determined to be non-work related, including death by natural causes. To address this issue, DMP implemented procedures which included a formal request for information on non-work related deaths.*
- *Some sites (e.g. parts of ports, such as mineral facilities at Bunbury and Port Hedland ports) are defined as a mining operation under DMP's legislation, but may not be regarded as mines by the Coroner in NCIS.*
- *The suicides may have occurred outside DMP jurisdiction (e.g. away from the mine site, or at home).*

How many of these were investigated by DMP, and what was the outcome of these investigations?

All of these deaths were investigated by DMP.

DMP regulates *workplace* health and safety in the resources industry. Mental health incidents which are not work-related are outside the department's jurisdiction. Despite this, DMP investigates all WA resources industry deaths, to determine whether there is any causal link to the workplace, such as bullying, fatigue, etc. The type of investigation depends on whether it is work-related or non-work related:

- *Work-related death:* An investigation of a death associated with a work-related accident involves multiple site visits, collection and scrutiny of all relevant documentation, and interviews with all persons of interest. The investigation report is subject to legal review and may result in a person or company being charged with a criminal offence. If there is no prosecution, the report is provided to the State Coroner, who may decide to hold an inquest.
- *Non-work related death:* Investigation would involve a site visit or a telephone discussion with the site manager (and sometimes with the WA Police who attended). The site would be required to provide a standard set of information, and once the cause of death had been confirmed by autopsy, the case would be closed.

The outcome of these investigations was that:

- 25 non-work related mining deaths were reported to the DMP in this period were confirmed as non-work related.
- There were two confirmed suicides by mine workers in this period, both of which were not work-related. These are included in the 25 non-work related deaths:
 - 19 September 2014 – Darlot Gold Mine: Suicide. Police investigated this matter. The DMP investigation into this matter has concluded and determined that the death was not work-related.
 - 24 October 2014 – Brockman 2 Mine (Rio Tinto): Suspected suicide. Police are investigating this matter. DMP did not investigate this matter, as it was not related to issues in the workplace.

For those that were not investigated, why was no investigation conducted?

All were investigated.