



## NICNAS Information Sheet

### Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Review: Revised Draft Report for Comment

February 2010

The Office of Chemical Safety and Environmental Health (OCSEH) and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) have prepared a revised draft report on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) entitled: 'A Scientific Review of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: Identifying Key Research Needs'.

This revised draft report is now available for comment (see below for more details).

#### What is MCS?

MCS describes a complex condition involving a broad array of symptoms attributed to exposure to extremely low levels of a wide variety of environmental chemicals. The symptoms experienced by individuals are diverse and reported symptoms can, in some cases, be debilitating. The pathogenic mechanisms involved in MCS have not been established. Diagnostic methods and treatments have yet to be agreed by the medical profession.

#### Background to the report

Given the uncertainty in relation to the mechanisms, diagnosis and treatment of MCS, a number of studies and enquiries on MCS have occurred, including in Australia. A consistent finding of such investigations has been the need for further research on MCS to enhance the understanding, prevention and management of MCS. However, these calls for further research have not specified priority areas for the research community. It is in this context that OCSEH and NICNAS have compiled this scientific report on MCS.

#### Release of a revised draft report for comment

A draft report on MCS was released by NICNAS for public comment in November 2008. This report attracted a large number of submissions (available from the NICNAS website at [www.nicnas.gov.au/Current\\_Issues/MCS.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Current_Issues/MCS.asp)) which NICNAS has now considered.

Because of significant changes to the report resulting from submissions, NICNAS is now releasing a revised draft report for a final round of public comment prior to finalisation.

This revised draft report is now available for comment from the NICNAS website at [www.nicnas.gov.au/Current\\_Issues/MCS.asp](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Current_Issues/MCS.asp). Comments are due by **15 April 2010** (extended from 25 March 2010).

Comments on the report should be sent via email to [MCS@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:MCS@nicnas.gov.au), or by mail to:

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