



NICNAS Information Sheet

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Review – Draft Report for Corrections

October 2008

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

The report will be available for comment from 3 November 2008 (see below for more details).

What is MCS?

MCS describes a complex array of symptoms where the underlying etiology remains ill defined. There are reports linking MCS to a wide range of environmental agents (including chemicals) and/or psychogenic factors. The symptoms experienced by individuals are diverse and reported symptoms can in some cases be quite debilitating. Further, diagnostic methods and treatments have yet to be agreed by the medical profession.

Background to the report

Given the uncertainty in relation to the cause(s), diagnosis and range of effective treatment(s) of MCS, a number of studies and enquiries on MCS have occurred, including in Australia. One consistent finding of such investigations has been the identification of the need for further research on MCS so as 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 the Office of Chemical Safety and NICNAS compiled a scientific report on MCS.

Consultation and corrections period for the draft report

A consultation meeting will be held in Canberra on Thursday 30 October 2008 to bring together the authors of the report and key interest groups to discuss the scientific findings outlined in the report.

Consistent with the process for finalisation of a scientific report, the draft MCS review report will be released to the public for a period of two months to seek corrections/clarification of a factual nature so as to ensure accuracy.

The draft report will be available from 3 November 2008 until 5 January 2009 from both:

- the NICNAS website: www.nicnas.gov.au and
- the OCS website: www.ocs.gov.au

Corrections or comments on the factual information in the report can be submitted via email to: MCS@nicnas.gov.au by 5 January 2009.