Dear Minister,

In November 2010 a report prepared by the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) and the Office of Chemical Safety and Environmental Health (OCSEH) entitled: A Scientific Review Of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: Identifying Key Research Needs stated that:

7 - Finding 3: Education/training
A survey of clinical approaches to MCS of Australian medical practitioners identified a lack of coverage of MCS within the current Australian medical curriculum given the relatively small amount of time devoted to minor specialties. Other than hospital protocols containing practical measures to assist inpatients with chemical sensitivities, there are also currently no clinical guidelines available to inform medical practitioners as to how to provide appropriate care for MCS individuals. The development of a clinical education program should be investigated. Such a program should be based on evidence currently available, utilise any findings from clinical research in Australia (such as a longitudinal investigation) and consider the practical guidance on approaches to MCS clinical management agreed by participants in the recent clinical review of MCS.

I would like to be informed as to what progress has been made on the implementation of this finding, and what guidelines are available to general practitioners to assist them in treating patients with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

Yours sincerely,

Kelly Vincent

13 Feb 2015

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