



**The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

Our Ref: 60-10682

Mr Stephen King
PO Box 36
YARLOOP WA 6218

Dear Mr King

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 2018 advising of your dissatisfaction with my response to your letter in July 2018. The Department of Health (DOH) does not dismiss your concerns and understands that certain individuals may be extremely sensitive to chemicals, requiring individual management irrespective of their location.

As you will be aware, the previous Chief Health Officer (CHO), Professor Tarun Weeramanthri, attended a meeting in Yarloop in May 2015 at the invitation of the Community Alliance for Positive Solutions Inc. (CAPS) to hear about health concerns the community attributed to air emissions from the Alcoa Refinery. During that meeting, Professor Weeramanthri reiterated that anyone concerned about impacts of chemical pollution on their health, could provide medical information from their medical practitioner to his office or alternatively the medical practitioner could speak to public health physicians at the DOH.

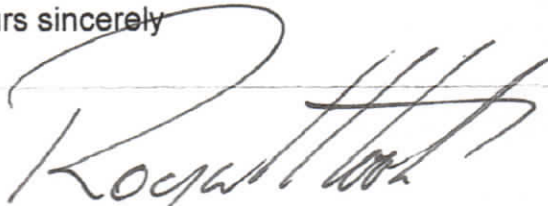
As you will also be aware the DOH has exchanged correspondence with CAPS and members of CAPS over the years on various matters, and that this correspondence is published on the CAPS website. Therefore, you will also be aware of the following points that have been made in previous correspondence to CAPS.

- The DOH does not deny that some areas within a 10 kilometre radius of the Refinery are intermittently subjected to odours and air emission plumes from the Refinery.
- The DOH accepts that some very sensitive individuals may experience adverse health effects at these times and that individual case management by their doctor remains the most appropriate option for each.
- Information provided to the DOH will be treated as confidential and should be provided to the CHO (previously known as the Executive Director of Public Health).

- Professor D'Arcy Holman, Chair of the Medical Practitioners Forum, an independent advisory group providing advice to the Government of the day, provided a formal written overview of survey results. Professor Holman's assessment was that the results were largely unremarkable. He concluded that the survey was of a high scientific standard although he did outline some concerns with the scope of the survey.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook', written over a horizontal line.

HON ROGER COOK MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH

13 SEP 2018