



M.E. / C.F.S. Society (S.A.) Inc.



PATRON: Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, AC, CVO, MBE,
Governor of South Australia

ABN 14 535 639 334
GPO Box 383, Adelaide
South Australia, 5001
Suite 510, Epworth Building
33 Pirie Street, Adelaide

Administration (08) 8410 8929
Fax (08) 8410 8931
Support & Information Service:
Metro callers (08) 8410 8930
Country callers 1800 136 626

Registered Charity 698
Charity Direct Member
email: sacfs@sacfs.asn.au
web: <http://www.sacfs.asn.au>

Hon John Hill
Minister for Health
GPO Box 2555
Adelaide SA 5001

1 June 2006

Dear Minister

Implementation of the report on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

I am writing to you to express my concern at the lack of any apparent effort to begin implementing the recommendations of the Social Development Committee of State Parliament in its report on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.

The Committee tabled its report on 5 July 2005. You responded officially in early December 2005, accepting most of the recommendations. Since then, there has been silence.

I represent many people who suffer from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). Approximately half of all people with ME/CFS (myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome) suffer from MCS. The Society was actively involved with the MCS Inquiry. It held a public meeting in 2004 as part of preparing its submission to the Inquiry and another in September 2005 addressed by three members of the Committee, the Hons Gail Gago MLC, Sandra Kanck MLC and Michelle Lensink MLC. Since then we have actively communicated with members about the report. And just recently, as a result of our mounting concern at the lack of action from your portfolio, we have placed an MCS Report Clock on our website www.sacfs.asn.au. As I write this the clock stands at 330 days since 5 July.

The lack of action on implementing the recommendations of the report is dispiriting to our members. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide me with answers to the following questions:

- Will an interagency working party on MCS be established before the first anniversary of the parliamentary report's tabling on 5 July 2005?
- Will the working party be supported with an executive officer whose time is dedicated solely or primarily to assisting it to carry out its task actively and speedily?
- Will this Society, as one of the two key consumer groups which has actively represented the interests of people with MCS over the past few years, be invited to provide a representative?
- Will the working party have the capacity to invite other agencies of government to join the key agencies of Health and Families? DAIS is one agency with a potentially vital role to play in improving standards of facilities development and management in this State. And the Department of Education and Childrens Services is another.

For obvious reasons I would be grateful if you were able to reply before 5 July given the symbolic significance of that day.

Despite the hiatus since the MCS Report was presented to State Parliament, I remain hopeful that we will see real action over the next year or so to improve the situation of people with MCS and selective chemical sensitivities in this State.

I look forward to hearing from you and will ensure that your reply is promptly made available to all members of our Society.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cahalan (Dr)
President