



## **THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP**

**Minister for Ageing**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

18 April 2007

CP34/07

#### **Gastroenteritis outbreak: Broughton Hall**

Further to my statement issued yesterday, I am continuing to closely monitor the situation at Broughton Hall since the outbreak of gastroenteritis was brought to my attention on 14 April.

A full review audit by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency is under way.

While the responsible health authority in Victoria, the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS), issued a media release yesterday indicating the department "is satisfied there are no on-going health concerns for residents", I was very concerned that two more residents of Broughton Hall were admitted to hospital last night.

I am also extremely concerned about the allegations that have been made that staff were pressured into signing clearly mis-dated documents relating to food safety procedures.

These are very serious allegations and my department has called in the Benetas management to respond to the allegations as a matter of urgency.

I have instructed departmental officers to fully investigate the allegations in concert with assessors from the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency who are conducting the review audit at the home.

To ensure the residents of Broughton Hall and their families are kept informed of the situation, my department spoke to residents at Broughton Hall yesterday and will also be meeting with relatives this evening.

My department has sought more information from the Victorian Department of Human Services on the progress of its investigation into the disease outbreak including the possible causes being explored, those that have been excluded and those that are still being pursued.

I want to know the extent to which DHS has tested samples from residents and the conclusions being drawn from the results, and whether DHS has tested samples from staff and, if so, the numbers and results of those tests.

My department has asked for immediate advice from DHS if they decide to adopt a different management approach to the outbreak, particularly any decision to quarantine the home or restrict visitors.

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