

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 12:50 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Your edits look good, I've just suggested we delete also – I've put double strikethrough to highlight the word I mean.

Kind regards,

s22

s22
 Director Radiation Policy Section

Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 11:21 AM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

What do you think of below suggested edits?

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 4:55 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

As discussed, s22 is happy for us to send a simple response to s11C acknowledging her letter to the PM has been referred to the Department.

A proposed response is below for your consideration.

Kind regards,

s22

****Proposed response****

Dear s11C

Thank you for your email to Blair Comley, PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I am able to advise your detailed letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP of 16 August 2023 ~~in relation to~~ regarding health risks of mould exposure and mould remediation standards in Australia. ~~Your letter~~ has ~~also~~ been referred to the Department of Health and Aged Care and **we are working with the relevant Government agencies to provide you a response as soon as possible. a response to will be provided to you in coming weeks.**

Kind regards,

****Original enquiry****

Dear Mr Blair Comley PSM,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to enquire about any evidence based research or documentation I could obtain from the Federal Department of Health on:

1. Mould
2. Mould remediation of properties and the expected standards in buildings vs outdoor air sampling.
3. The health risks of mycotoxin in the human body from water damaged buildings (SIRS)
4. Any other relevant documentation or standards relating to mould in properties

I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 7:45 AM

To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au> <s22@health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

In s22 absence today can you please work directly with s22 today to draft a response to the below for my review by midday Thursday please.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers,

s22

From: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 10:14 PM

To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22

<s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22

<s22@health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s22 - yes can do

Happy to discuss s22

Yours sincerely

Stephen Bouwhuis

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection

Chief Medical Officer Group

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | M: s22 | E: Stephen.Bouwhuis@health.gov.au

Location: Scarborough Building, s22

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant – s22 | P: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 10:07 PM

To: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>;

s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

The secretary has received the below inquiry, and has asked if OHP can respond directly OBO of Blair in response.

Given the correspondent has made a follow up phone call, if not too tight, could we try get a response out by the **end of the week** please? FAS clearance is fine, and make sure it goes from a coord box with departmental personnel contact information omitted.

Once sent, please send myself and s22 a copy so we can close the loop with the secretary's office.

Many thanks,

s22

**Executive Officer to
Chief Medical Officer | Professor Paul Kelly**

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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From: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 12:10 PM

To: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

We have received an enquiry from a member of the public re: Mould.

s11C, who called on the switchboard today, appears to have issues in her rental property with mould and is seeking advice from Health re: the effects of mould and the impacts to her health.

I conducted a quick google search to see if we have released any material re: mould and it appears we published an enHealth report in 2021.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment?language=en>

Can the relevant area within CMO group please respond to s11C on behalf of Blair.

I have separately acknowledged receipt of s11C email and advised a response would be provided to her in due course.

Cheers

s22

s22

**Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary**

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary: s22 | s22 @health.gov.au

From: s11C >

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM

To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Blair Comley PSM,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to enquire about any evidence based research or documentation I could obtain from the Federal Department of Health on:

1. Mould
2. Mould remediation of properties and the expected standards in buildings vs outdoor air sampling.
3. The health risks of mycotoxin in the human body from water damaged buildings (SIRS)
4. Any other relevant documentation or standards relating to mould in properties

I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

s11C

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 26 September 2023 10:16 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22; s22
Subject: RE: Draft response for review please - s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Thank you very much for your review and suggested edits. I have accepted your track changes and will send through to s22 in PDMS.

Many thanks

s22

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 10:43 PM
To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft response for review please - s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Many thanks for the opportunity to review. I have made some edits in track changes. I apologise that it looks like a bit of a mess but I know s22 is keen to keep responses as close to one page as possible. I do appreciate it was a long letter that covered a number of issues relating to mould.

As a lot of her focus was on building codes, standards and remediation matters I have limited the amount on health specific issues.

Happy to chat in the morning.

Kind regards,

s22

s22
 Director Radiation Policy Section

Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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From: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 5:32 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Subject: Draft response for review please - s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

Hi s22

Please find attached for your review a draft response to s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation referred to us by PM&C. Original correspondence is also attached.

I apologise for the delay in providing this. s22 has reviewed this response, and we are progressing up the line while awaiting input from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

For your background / reference while reviewing the draft response, please find attached:

1. Most recent email received from s11C on 22 September in response to s22 email reply on behalf of Secretary Blair.
2. Responses to input requests for this corro from:
 - Department of Industry, Science and Resources
 - Australian Building Codes Board
 - NHMRC

As mentioned above, we are awaiting input from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in relation to the implementation status of **Recommendation 2** of the Biotoxins Inquiry which relates to Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries.

3. Biotoxins FAS brief from November 2022 estimates

This is the latest status we have on recommendations for the Biotoxins Inquiry (prior to our requested updates for this response).

4. A summary of the questions / topics covered in the original correspondence.

If possible, we would really appreciate your review and suggested edits by 10:30 am tomorrow, Tuesday 26 September please. I very much apologise for the tight turnaround. Following your review, we will then pass to s22 for her review and clearance. As mentioned previously, this response will be FAS cleared.

Thanks so much s22 and happy to chat further!

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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From: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 11:36 AM

To: s22 <s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @Health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au> <s22@health.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Super happy to have a look before it goes to s22

Kind regards,

s22

s22
 Director Radiation Policy Section

Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present

From: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 11:25 AM
 To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
 Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au> <s22@health.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Thanks for your email 😊 that one is with me, and s22 I can send to you for review before it goes to s22
 Thanks

s22

From: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 11:23 AM
 To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
 Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au> <s22@health.gov.au>
 Subject: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hey s22 and s22

Im Just doing a check on PDMS docs to see how they are tracking.

Can I ask how -

s11C (Draft) - Referral from PM&C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation

Is going?

If possible, could we have a response by Friday.

Thank you both,

s22

s22

Executive Assistant to
s22 | a/g Assistant Secretary
Environment Health and Climate Change Branch
Chief Medical Officer Group | Office of Health Protection Division
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

E: s22@health.gov.au

P: s22

Work days | Mon / Wed / Thurs / Fri

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present.

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 11:23 AM
To: s22 @dewr.gov.au
Cc: s22
Subject: Request for review / input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s11C – DoHAC draft response.docx; s11C - excerpt from original correspondence.docx

Hi s22

Thank you very much for your time in the phone just now. It was lovely to speak with you and thank you very much for kindly assisting with this request.

As mentioned, the Department of Health and Aged Care have received some correspondence, referred from PM&C, relating to the implementation status of recommendations from the *House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia*.

The Health Portfolio is responsible for monitoring the implementation of all the recommendations.

We are seeking an update in relation to the implementation status of **Recommendation 2** of the Inquiry which relates to Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries. This recommendation was referred to State and Territory Building Ministers and the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC). The recommendation in full reads:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work with the states and territories to conduct further research into, and develop standards and/or accreditation requirements for the mould testing and remediation industries, which should include consideration of:

- *the most effective methods of testing and remediation of buildings affected by mould and/or moisture;*
- *appropriate accreditation requirements for professionals working in these fields; and options for greater regulatory oversight of these industries*

If possible, I would greatly appreciate any updates you may have in relation to the second dot point above and your review of our draft wording below. We have also contacted Department of Industry Building policy team and Australian Building Codes Board to help inform our reply correspondence.

In our draft reply (attached), we have included the following paragraph:

I understand that the development of standards and accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries is the responsibility of industry and relevant regulators. Professional cleaners are trained through the vocational education and training system. I understand the relevant qualification for cleaners has been updated to include mould-specific skills and knowledge.

This unit, CPPCLO4107 - Remediate mould contaminated structures and contents, is available on the National Register of vocational education and training and is informed by standards set by the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) and relevant Australian Standards and applies to experienced technicians responding to jobs in commercial and domestic sites.

For context, I have attached a de-identified excerpt from the original correspondence.

Our draft reply (not yet cleared) is also attached for your reference, noting the information relating to the above recommendations may be outdated.

I would be very grateful for review and input as soon as possible please, by COB today if possible. I very much apologise for the short turnaround. In the case that you need to consult internally with another area, I can certainly arrange for additional time.

Thank you very much again and happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 12:37 PM
To: s22 @ABCB.gov.au; s22 @ABCB.gov.au
Cc: s22 @abcb.gov.au; s22 ; s22
Subject: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s11C – DoHAC draft response.docx; s11C - excerpt from original correspondence.docx

Hi s22 and s22
 I hope you are well!

We have received some correspondence, referred from PM&C, relating to the implementation status of recommendations from the *House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia*.

On 4 March 2020, the Australian Government tabled its response (the [Response](#)) to the Standing Committee's report and its seven recommendations. The Health Portfolio is responsible for monitoring the implementation of all the recommendations.

There are two recommendations from the Inquiry that were referred to the former Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (now Department of Industry Science and Resources) that relate to testing and remediation of buildings affected by mould and/or moisture and building codes and standards.

- Recommendation 2 - Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries
- Recommendation 4 - Research into building codes and standards for prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings.

We understand that both of these recommendations were referred the Building Ministers Meeting and we have contacted the Department of Industry to help inform our reply correspondence.

In our draft reply (attached), we have included a paragraph on the 'Condensation in Buildings' handbook available on the ABCB website. We would be grateful if you could please kindly:

- review the following wording for accuracy
- provide any additional input relevant to building codes and standards for prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings.

[draft wording for review]

My understanding is that the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has published an updated "Condensation in Buildings" handbook that is available from the ABCB website. This handbook provides guidelines to assist architects, designers and builders in the assessment and the management of the risk of condensation and its consequences. The handbook also provides further support to practitioners to use the new condensation management provisions in the National Construction Code 2022.

For context, I have attached a de-identified excerpt from the original correspondence. Our draft reply (not yet cleared) is also attached for your reference, noting the information relating to the above recommendations may be outdated.

I would be very grateful for input please by Thursday COB 21 September 2023, if possible.

Thank you and happy to discuss.

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 3:07 PM
To: s22; s22
Cc: s22; s22
Subject: RE: Extension request - s11C : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Grateful if we can get an extension for this D response. We need to consult multiple departments so would be grateful for an extension until mid next week.

Thanks

s22

From: s22 @pws.gov.au <s22 @pws.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 11:24 AM
To: s22 <s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: s11C : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22 has assigned s11C to s22.

Click on the above link to open the record in Microsoft Edge.

Record details*	
Subject	Referral from PM&C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation
Type	Departmental Reply
Processing Instructions	Hi s22 - Grateful if you or the team please draft a response. Thanks
Milestones	Due for Clearance: 22/09/2023 12:00:33 PM Due to Parliamentary: 22/09/2023 2:00:33 PM Due to Ministers Office: 25/09/2023 5:00:33 PM Critical Date:
Responsible Area	Chief Medical Officer Office of Health Protection
Status	Draft

*Please note if any fields are empty, the associated field has not been populated in PDMS.

Have a question or would like to organise some training?

Contact the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch on s22. You can also visit the MPS [Intranet](#) page for the latest information, news, and events.

Thank you

Please do not reply to this automated message.

SEC=OFFICIAL

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 11:02 AM
To: s22; s22 @industry.gov.au
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au; s22; s22
Subject: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s11C - excerpt from original correspondence.docx; s11C - DoHAC draft response.docx

Good morning s22 and s22

I hope you are well!

I am assisting with the Biotoxins-related Illnesses Inquiry work and your contact details were passed on to me by my colleague, s22.

We have received some correspondence, referred from PM&C, relating to the implementation status of recommendations from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia. The Health Portfolio is responsible for monitoring the implementation of all recommendations from the Biotoxin-related Illnesses inquiry.

To help inform our reply correspondence, we would be grateful for your input in relation to the progress of the below recommendations that were referred the Building Ministers Meeting:

- Recommendation 2 - Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries
- Recommendation 4 - Research into building codes and standards for prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings.

For context, I have attached a de-identified excerpt from the original correspondence.

Our draft reply (not yet cleared) is also attached for your reference, noting the information relating to the above recommendations may be outdated.

I would be very grateful for input by Thursday COB 21 September 2023, if possible.

Thank you and happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

s22

s22

Ag Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
 Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 4:46 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Extension request - s11C : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22
 Thank you for arranging an extension. Please see below for background / info on seeking further input on biotoxins Inquiry corro - s11C

In relation Recommendation 2 – this was the responsibility of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources under the previous Government. The Australian Industry and Skills committee no longer exists.

As part of the Skills reform agenda agreed by National Cabinet, new industry engagement arrangements commenced from 1 January 2023:

- An independent *Training Product Assurance function* has replaced the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC), which ceased its operations on 31 December 2022.
- Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) and Skills Service Organisations (SSOs) have been replaced by Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs).

If we want to find out more information about the status of Recommendation 2 – responsibility of State and Territory Building Ministers and the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC).

1. We can contact the Department Employment and Workplace relations portfolio
 - Skills and Vocational Education and Training is part of their portfolio.
 - I am unsure how much background knowledge they will have on the status of this recommendation of the Biotoxins Inquiry since they were not previously involved.

For an update on the status of Recommendations 2 and 4 – Responsibility of Building Ministers

2. We can conduct the Department of Industry for an update of the progress of Rec 2 and 4 – and about anything that has been discussed at the Building Ministers' meetings. I have looked on their website at the recent communiques from Building Ministers' meetings but there is nothing mentioned in relation to mould or remediation standards.

I suggest we contact the Department of Industry for an update on their progress for Recs 2 and 4. I will have a look at previous emails from late last year when we last sought an update.

Thanks
 s22

From: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 3:07 PM
To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Extension request - s11C : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

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Thanks
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From: s22 @pws.gov.au <s22 @pws.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 August 2023 11:24 AM
To: s22 <s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: s11C : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [SEC=OFFICIAL]

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22 has assigned s11C to s22

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Responsible Area	Chief Medical Officer Office of Health Protection
Status	Draft

*Please note if any fields are empty, the associated field has not been populated in PDMS.

Have a question or would like to organise some training?

Contact the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch on s22 . You can also visit the MPS [Intranet](#) page for the latest information, news, and events.

Thank you
PDMS Notification Service

Please do not reply to this automated message.

SEC=OFFICIAL

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 5:43 PM
To: s22 @health.gov.au
Cc: s22 ; s22 ; s22
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi s22

As discussed can you please send this one to s11C from the no reply box and then attach a copy of the email to a reply to s22 etc. as per the original request?

Cheers,

s22

.....

Dear s11C

Thank you for your email to Blair Comley, PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I am able to advise your detailed letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP of 16 August 2023 regarding health risks of mould exposure and mould remediation standards in Australia has been referred to the Department of Health and Aged Care and we are working with the relevant Government agencies to provide you a response as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

s22

Acting Assistant Secretary
Environmental Health & Climate Change Branch

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s11C >
Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM
To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>
Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Blair Comley PSM,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to enquire about any evidence based research or documentation I could obtain from the Federal Department of Health on:

1. Mould
2. Mould remediation of properties and the expected standards in buildings vs outdoor air sampling.
3. The health risks of mycotoxin in the human body from water damaged buildings (SIRS)
4. Any other relevant documentation or standards relating to mould in properties

I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 9:14 AM
To: s22
Cc: BOUWHUIS, Stephen; s22; s22@health.gov.au
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi s22

Yes, this individual also wrote to the PM and we are in the process of drafting a detailed response in relation to that correspondence. We will therefore likely write a high-level holding response in relation to the email and noting that we have also received the letter which we will respond to as soon as possible, but we will confirm this approach with s22 this morning.

Cheers,

s22

From: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 8:50 AM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good Morning s22

Just looking to close the loop on this one and make sure we're on track for the end of the week?

Kind Regards,

s22

A/g Executive Officer to Stephen Bouwhuis
 A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection | Chief Medical Officer Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 Scarborough House s22
E: s22@health.gov.au | **M:** s22

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past, present and emerging.

From: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 10:14 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s22 - yes can do

Happy to discuss s22

Yours sincerely

Stephen Bouwhuis

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection

Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
T: s22 | M: s22 | E: Stephen.Bouwhuis@health.gov.au
Location: Scarborough Building, s22
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant – s22 | P: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

The secretary has received the below inquiry, and has asked if OHP can respond directly OBO of Blair in response.

Given the correspondent has made a follow up phone call, if not too tight, could we try get a response out by the **end of the week** please? FAS clearance is fine, and make sure it goes from a coord box with departmental personnel contact information omitted.

Once sent, please send myself and s22 a copy so we can close the loop with the secretary's office.

Many thanks,

s22
Executive Officer to
Chief Medical Officer | Professor Paul Kelly

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au
GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 12:10 PM

To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment?language=en>

Can the relevant area within CMO group please respond to s11C on behalf of Blair.

I have separately acknowledged receipt of s11C email and advised a response would be provided to her in due course.

Cheers

s22

s22

Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

+s22 | s22
s22@health.gov.au

✉ GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary: s22 | s22 | s22@health.gov.au

From: s11C >

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM

To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

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s11C

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22 @health.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 22 September 2023 8:47 AM
To: s22; s22
Cc: s22
Subject: COPY of Email Response Sent | Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Response to your correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good Friday Morning s22 and s22

Please see the attached copy of the email sent to s11C, as requested.

Thank you both 😊

s22

s22

Executive Assistant
 s22 a/g Assistant Secretary
 Environment Health and Climate Change Branch

E: s22 @health.gov.au

P: s22

Work days | Mon / Wed / Thurs / Fri

From: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 10:14 PM

To: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>; s22

<s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>; s22

<s22 @health.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s22 - yes can do

Happy to discuss s22

Yours sincerely

Stephen Bouwhuis

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection

Chief Medical Officer Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: Stephen.Bouwhuis@health.gov.au
 Location: Scarborough Building, s22
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant – s22 | P: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

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Given the correspondent has made a follow up phone call, if not too tight, could we try get a response out by the **end of the week** please? FAS clearance is fine, and make sure it goes from a coord box with departmental personnel contact information omitted.

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Many thanks,

s22
Executive Officer to
Chief Medical Officer | Professor Paul Kelly

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au
 GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 12:10 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment?language=en>

Can the relevant area within CMO group please respond to s11C on behalf of Blair.

I have separately acknowledged receipt of s11C email and advised a response would be provided to her in due course.

Cheers

s22

s22

Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

+s22 | +s22
@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary: s22 s22 s22 @health.gov.au

From: s11C >

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM

To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

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Thank you,

s11C

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 7:50 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22; s22@health.gov.au
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Thanks for sending this through. Yes, I will prepare a response today and clear through s22 for your review tomorrow.

Many thanks

s22

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 7:45 AM
To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22@health.gov.au <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

In s22 absence today can you please work directly with s22 today to draft a response to the below for my review by midday Thursday please.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers,

s22

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Yours sincerely

Stephen Bouwhuis

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection

Chief Medical Officer Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 E: Stephen.Bouwhuis@health.gov.au
 Location: Scarborough Building, s22
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Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au
 GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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To: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>
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Can the relevant area within CMO group please respond to s11C on behalf of Blair.

I have separately acknowledged receipt of s11C email and advised a response would be provided to her in due course.

Cheers

s22

s22

Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

 s22
 s22 @health.gov.au
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary s22 | s22 @health.gov.au

From: s11C >

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM

To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

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Thank you,

s11C

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 4:55 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: Draft response - Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

As discussed, s22 is happy for us to send a simple response to s11C acknowledging her letter to the PM has been referred to the Department.

A proposed response is below for your consideration.

Kind regards,

s22

****Proposed response****

Dear s11C

Thank you for your email to Blair Comley, PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I am able to advise your letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP of 16 August 2023 in relation to regarding health risks of mould exposure and mould remediation standards in Australia. Your letter has been referred to the Department of Health and Aged Care and a response will be provided to you in coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Acting Assistant Secretary
 Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

****Original enquiry****

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Office of Health Protection

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 Location: Scarborough Building s22
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s22

s22

Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

s22

@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary: s22 elan@health.gov.au

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s11C

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 3:07 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Draft response - Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Thanks for clarifying our approach to responding to the below enquiry from s11C. As you discussed with s22 and s22 I have prepared a response below that acknowledges receipt of s11C correspondence that has been referred to us by PM&C.

Thanks and happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

s22

****Original enquiry****

Dear Mr Blair Comley PSM,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to enquire about any evidence based research or documentation I could obtain from the Federal Department of Health on:

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I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

****draft response****

Dear s11C

Thank you for your enquiry.

I acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence of 16 August 2023 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP regarding health risks of mould exposure and mould remediation standards in Australia. Your letter has been referred to the Department of Health and Aged Care and a response will be provided in due course.

Kind regards

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 5:02 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

For your review, please find below a draft reply in response to the below enquiry received by s11C in relation to evidence-based research or documentation that has been published by the Department in relation to mould.

You will be aware we are also working on a draft response to correspondence from s11C received by PM&C and referred to us regarding health risks of mould exposure and mould remediation standards in Australia. At this stage, there will be some repetition across the two responses, however, please let me know if we would prefer a different approach.

Grateful for your review and clearance for this to be sent to s22 by 12 noon Thursday 20 September 2023.

Many thanks and happy to discuss further 😊

s22

****Original enquiry****

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I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

****draft response****

Dear s11C

Thank you for your enquiry in relation to evidence based research or documentation published by the Department of Health and Aged Care in relation to the health effects of mould exposure.

The Department of Health and Aged Care is responsible for responding to several of the recommendations from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport Inquiry into Biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia. This includes developing a biotoxins (indoor damp and mould) clinical pathway to assist general practitioners and other health professionals with the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with biotoxin-related illnesses.

The clinical pathway has been developed in consultation with medical practitioners, medical professional organisations and patient and consumer groups and is expected to be published on the department's website in coming months.

In addition, a fact sheet on the health effects of mould has been developed by the Environmental Health Standing Committee, a standing committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. The fact sheet consolidates current jurisdictional advice on the health effects of mould and is available at www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment?language=en.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Kind regards

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 7:45 AM
To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

In s22 absence today can you please work directly with s22 today to draft a response to the below for my review by midday Thursday please.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers,

s22

From: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 10:14 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks s22 - yes can do

Happy to discuss s22

Yours sincerely

Stephen Bouwhuis

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection

Chief Medical Officer Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: Stephen.Bouwhuis@health.gov.au
 Location: Scarborough Building, s22
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant – s22 | P: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 10:07 PM
To: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 | <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team

The secretary has received the below inquiry, and has asked if OHP can respond directly OBO of Blair in response.

Given the correspondent has made a follow up phone call, if not too tight, could we try get a response out by the **end of the week** please? FAS clearance is fine, and make sure it goes from a coord box with departmental personnel contact information omitted.

Once sent, please send myself and s22 a copy so we can close the loop with the secretary's office.

Many thanks,

s22
Executive Officer to
Chief Medical Officer | Professor Paul Kelly

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au
 GPO Box 9848, CANBERRA ACT 2601

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From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 12:10 PM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

We have received an enquiry from a member of the public re: Mould.

s11C, who called on the switchboard today, appears to have issues in her rental property with mould and is seeking advice from Health re: the effects of mould and the impacts to her health.

I conducted a quick google search to see if we have released any material re: mould and it appears we published an enHealth report in 2021.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment?language=en>

Can the relevant area within CMO group please respond to s11C on behalf of Blair.

I have separately acknowledged receipt of s11C email and advised a response would be provided to her in due course.

Cheers

s22

s22

Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

+s22 | +s22

s22@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary: s22 | s22@health.gov.au

From: s11C >

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM

To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Blair Comley PSM,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to enquire about any evidence based research or documentation I could obtain from the Federal Department of Health on:

1. Mould
2. Mould remediation of properties and the expected standards in buildings vs outdoor air sampling.
3. The health risks of mycotoxin in the human body from water damaged buildings (SIRS)
4. Any other relevant documentation or standards relating to mould in properties

I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 11:45 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: Response to your correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 9789240060241-eng[3][1].pdf; Pathogens ranking across MCDA WHO.pdf; Aspergillus Fumigatus.pdf; Mycotoxin clinical report - Private and Confidential - De-identified .pdf; enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment.pdf

Additional info 😊

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 11:33 AM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Response to your correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hello,

I just jumped into the no Reply email account and saw a reply from s11C

Please see the below email and attachments from s11C

s22

From: s11C >
Sent: Friday, 22 September 2023 11:02 AM
To: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Response to your correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear s22

Thank you for your replay, no worries I am happy to wait for input.

Could you please forward the attached mycotoxin clinical report to the Minister for Health and Hon Anthony Albanese MP. The attached clinical mycotoxin report has been de-identified for our privacy, however it is relevant and I would like the Health Minister and Prime Minister to be aware of the results that we hold on our mould exposure.

The WHO fungal priority pathogens list to guide research, development and public health action is attached. In this report Annex 1 page 14, it details the overall pathogens ranking across the MCDA stages. Of the critical priority group, **Aspergillus fumigatus** is listed.

Aspergillus fumigatus is a species of fungus in the genus Aspergillus and this is documented in our building mycology reports showing Aspergillus/ Penicillium in extremely contaminated surface levels in locations throughout

the home. Gliotoxin causative organism are – *Aspergillus versicolor*, ***Aspergillus fumigatus***. The effects inhibit macrophage phagocytosis, induces macrophage apoptosis blocks T and B cell Activation, Immunosuppression, in-vivo displays anti-inflammatory activity.

I located on the DOH website, the Enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment (see attached). Please refer to section "Should I test for mould in my home" on page 3. This is of great concern to me and does not address the risks of mould being a biohazard and testing options for water damaged buildings.

The Australian Government needs to fund laboratories, to have the capability of testing for mould exposure of humans in water damaged buildings within Australia for disease prevention.

In addition if the IICRC guidelines were to be adopted by Government or its States and Territories, there needs to be further evidence based research into actual remediation of buildings and the removal of mould and its root structures in building elements within Australia.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance, as mould remediation of a water damaged / mould impacted building is just awful to navigate.

Thank you,

s11C

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>

Date: Friday, 22 September 2023 at 8:27 am

To: "s11C"

Subject: Response to your correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear s11C

Thank you for your email to Blair Comley, PSM, Secretary, Department of Health and Aged Care. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I am able to advise your detailed letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP of 16 August 2023 regarding health risks of mould exposure and mould remediation standards in Australia has been referred to the Department of Health and Aged Care and we are working with the relevant Government agencies to provide you a response as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

s22

Acting Assistant Secretary
Environmental Health & Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continued connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present."

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 7:50 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22; s22@health.gov.au
Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Thanks for sending this through. Yes, I will prepare a response today and clear through s22 for your review tomorrow.

Many thanks

s22

From: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 7:45 AM
To: s22 <s22@Health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@health.gov.au>; s22@health.gov.au; s22@health.gov.au
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Subject: RE: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Yours sincerely

Stephen Bouwhuis

A/g First Assistant Secretary

Office of Health Protection

Chief Medical Officer Group
 Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 E: Stephen.Bouwhuis@health.gov.au
 Location: Scarborough Building, s22
 GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Executive Assistant - s22 | P: s22 E: s22 @health.gov.au

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To: BOUWHUIS, Stephen <Stephen.BOUWHUIS@health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @health.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s22
 Executive Officer to
 Chief Medical Officer | Professor Paul Kelly

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
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Subject: FW: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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I have separately acknowledged receipt of s11C email and advised a response would be provided to her in due course.

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s22

s22

Executive Assistant to Blair Comley PSM
Secretary

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

☎ s22
📧 s22@health.gov.au
✉ GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601

EO to the Secretary: s22 | s22@health.gov.au

From: s11C >

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2023 2:36 PM

To: COMLEY, Blair <Blair.COMLEY@Health.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Information - Research - Mould - Building Remediation

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr Blair Comley PSM,

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2. Mould remediation of properties and the expected standards in buildings vs outdoor air sampling.
3. The health risks of mycotoxin in the human body from water damaged buildings (SIRS)
4. Any other relevant documentation or standards relating to mould in properties

I would really appreciate any information you could direct me to as soon as possible

Thank you,

s11C

s22

From: s22 @ABC.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 8:50 AM
To: s22 ; s22
Cc: s22 ; s22 ; s22
Subject: RE: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Thanks for the opportunity to review this. In addition to the handbook, the ABCB has been undertaking changes to the National Construction Code to address condensation, which will also mitigate mould risk in residential buildings. Feel free to add this to your correspondence.

I also suggest reaching out to s47F s47F @standards.org.au) from Standards Australia to check if they have any ongoing projects on mould and water restoration.

Note, we have also shared this response with s22 from the Building Policy team. Thanks again and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,



s22

Senior Project Officer | NCC Projects and Analysis
 Australian Building Codes Board

s22



Acknowledgement of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The information provided by the ABCB is provided for general information purposes only. While we make every effort to ensure that information provided is accurate and up to date, such information does in no way constitute the provision of professional advice. The Commonwealth of Australia (acting on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia, the State of New South Wales, the State of Queensland, the State of Victoria, the State of South Australia, the State of Tasmania, the State of Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (ABCB)) does not provide any warranties in relation to the accuracy, currency, reliability or completeness of any information provided by the ABCB. The ABCB accepts no responsibility or liability for any damage, loss, or expense incurred by you or anyone else that arises out of reliance on any information provided by the ABCB. You should make your own independent inquiries, undertake your own due diligence, and obtain your own independent professional advice prior to relying on, or making any decisions in relation to any information provided by the ABCB.

OFFICIAL

From: s22 s22 @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 12:37 PM
To: s22 s22 @ABC.gov.au>; s22 s22 @ABC.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @abc.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

CAUTION – External Email: This email originated from outside the department. Make sure you trust this sender before opening any links or attachments. If you think this is an attempt at Phishing, please report by clicking the **Report Phishing** button above.

Hi s22 and s22
I hope you are well!

We have received some correspondence, referred from PM&C, relating to the implementation status of recommendations from the *House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia*.

On 4 March 2020, the Australian Government tabled its response (the [Response](#)) to the Standing Committee's report and its seven recommendations. The Health Portfolio is responsible for monitoring the implementation of all the recommendations.

There are two recommendations from the Inquiry that were referred to the former Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (now Department of Industry Science and Resources) that relate to testing and remediation of buildings affected by mould and/or moisture and building codes and standards.

- Recommendation 2 - Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries
- Recommendation 4 - Research into building codes and standards for prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings.

We understand that both of these recommendations were referred the Building Ministers Meeting and we have contacted the Department of Industry to help inform our reply correspondence.

In our draft reply (attached), we have included a paragraph on the 'Condensation in Buildings' handbook available on the ABCB website. We would be grateful if you could please kindly:

- review the following wording for accuracy
- provide any additional input relevant to building codes and standards for prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings.

[draft wording for review]

My understanding is that the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has published an updated "Condensation in Buildings" handbook that is available from the ABCB website. This handbook provides guidelines to assist architects, designers and builders in the assessment and the management of the risk of condensation and its consequences. The handbook also provides further support to practitioners to use the new condensation management provisions in the National Construction Code 2022.

For context, I have attached a de-identified excerpt from the original correspondence.

Our draft reply (not yet cleared) is also attached for your reference, noting the information relating to the above recommendations may be outdated.

I would be very grateful for input please by Thursday COB 21 September 2023, if possible.

Thank you and happy to discuss.

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 [REDACTED] | E: s22 [REDACTED]@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22 <s22@dewr.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 September 2023 11:42 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: Request for review / input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s22

Your paragraph in yellow is accurate. You could insert WH&S regulators.
 Regards

s22

Agribusiness / Manufacturing | Industry Skills Policy and Performance | Industry Engagement and Quality Division

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Location Level 6 50 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra City ACT 2601, GPO Box 9880, Canberra ACT 2601

s22 Email: s22@dewr.gov.au

www.dewr.gov.au

From: s22 <s22@dewr.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 11:40 AM
To: s22@dewr.gov.au; s22@dewr.gov.au
Subject: RE: Request for review / input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

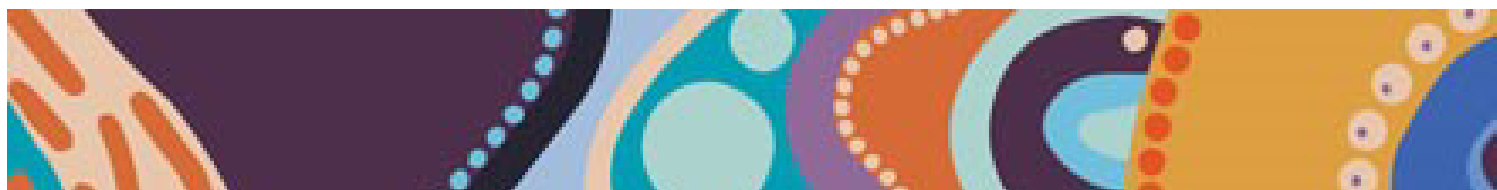
As discussed, I think specifically mentioning WH&S regulators at 'relevant regulators' is worthwhile, as some jurisdictions have specific advice on mould as a hazard for which employers are responsible. e.g. [Mould at work | SafeWork NSW](#)

All the rest looks factual.

Regards

s22

Assistant Director
 Mining, Automotive, Construction and Property | Industry Skills Education and Engagement
 VET Quality and Policy Division
 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Phone s22 | www.dewr.gov.au



The Department of Education, Skills and Employment acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past, present and emerging.

Cheers

From: s22 <[REDACTED]@dewr.gov.au>
 Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 11:41 AM
 To: s22 <[REDACTED]@dewr.gov.au>
 Cc: s22 <[REDACTED]@dewr.gov.au>
 Subject: FW: Request for review / input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
 Importance: High

Hi s22 and s22
 Not sure you have had any involvement in this in the past.
 Just took a call from Dept Health and follow up email below. They are seeking confirmation that the para in yellow is correct. Pretty sure the para is based on input we provided ???18 months ago. I told her I would seek your input as I am in a different position now.

I see [training.gov.au - CPPCLO4107 - Remediate mould contaminated structures and contents](#) was updated Jan 2022.

I think the para is fine, but if you have any further intel or views I can leave this with you, otherwise i can get back to s22 with an affirmative.

Regards

s22

From: s22 <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>
 Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 11:23 AM
 To: s22 <[REDACTED]@dewr.gov.au>
 Cc: s22 <[REDACTED]@Health.gov.au>
 Subject: Request for review / input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s22

Thank you very much for your time in the phone just now. It was lovely to speak with you and thank you very much for kindly assisting with this request.

As mentioned, the Department of Health and Aged Care have received some correspondence, referred from PM&C, relating to the implementation status of recommendations from the *House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia*.

The Health Portfolio is responsible for monitoring the implementation of all the recommendations.

We are seeking an update in relation to the implementation status of **Recommendation 2** of the Inquiry which relates to Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries. This recommendation was referred to State and Territory Building Ministers and the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC). The recommendation in full reads:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government work with the states and territories to conduct further research into, and develop standards and/or accreditation requirements for the mould testing and remediation industries, which should include consideration of:

- *the most effective methods of testing and remediation of buildings affected by mould and/or moisture;*
- *appropriate accreditation requirements for professionals working in these fields; and options for greater regulatory oversight of these industries*

If possible, I would greatly appreciate any updates you may have in relation to the second dot point above and your review of our draft wording below. We have also contacted Department of Industry Building policy team and Australian Building Codes Board to help inform our reply correspondence.

In our draft reply (attached), we have included the following paragraph:

I understand that the development of standards and accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries is the responsibility of industry and relevant regulators. Professional cleaners are trained through the vocational education and training system. I understand the relevant qualification for cleaners has been updated to include mould-specific skills and knowledge.

This unit, CPPCLO4107 - Remediate mould contaminated structures and contents, is available on the National Register of vocational education and training and is informed by standards set by the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) and relevant Australian Standards and applies to experienced technicians responding to jobs in commercial and domestic sites.

For context, I have attached a de-identified excerpt from the original correspondence.

Our draft reply (not yet cleared) is also attached for your reference, noting the information relating to the above recommendations may be outdated.

I would be very grateful for review and input as soon as possible please, by COB today if possible. I very much apologise for the short turnaround. In the case that you need to consult internally with another area, I can certainly arrange for additional time.

Thank you very much again and happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 5:42 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22 thanks for getting in touch.

Yes, I recall discussing this Inquiry and the two recommendations with s22 last year. However, please note that we cannot comment on progress regarding **recommendation 2 - standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries**:

- DISR considers that the adoption of a new professional standard for the remediation of mould problems is outside the remit of the National Construction Code, and does not fit well with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) or Building Ministers. This is already reflected in the draft response, but I wanted to confirm that any related content needs to be cleared with another team.
- In our view, the proposed professional standards that are required fit better with the Education/Employment portfolio, as they relate to the vocational education and training (VET) system, rather than Building Ministers. I gave s22 a contact to follow-up with last year, although we haven't spoken to that team since early 2022.

That said, please see our input as follows. I gather ABCB has contacted you separately, and may have provided similar detail:

- The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is responsible for updating and maintaining the National Construction Code (NCC), which provides minimum requirements for the design and construction of buildings. However, the ABCB does not regulate matters of remediation or professional accreditation.
- To assist industry to decrease the risks related to mould, the ABCB has published a *Condensation in Buildings Handbook* (updated most recently in June 2023). This handbook provides guidelines to assist architects, designers and builders in the assessment and the management of the risk of condensation and its consequences. The handbook can be found on the ABCB's website at www.abcb.gov.au.
- The ABCB has consulted with stakeholders on further amendments to the NCC to decrease the risk associated with mould and moisture caused by weatherproofing failures and condensation. These measures were included in the 2022 edition of the NCC, which took effect from 1 May 2023. Further measures will be considered for inclusion in NCC 2025. These measures are intended to decrease the risk of moisture and mould in buildings, but will not eliminate risks.
 - Please note that adoption of the NCC into relevant building regulations (and any transitional arrangements for those provisions) is a matter for individual states and territories. Details on the adoption of NCC 2022 can be found on the ABCB website – www.abcb.gov.au/ncc-2022-state-and-territory-adoption-dates.*

* Note there have been changes to some adoption dates; I understand from the ABCB Office that this table (currently as at 31 March) will be updated by the end of the week.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

With thanks,

s22
 s22 | Building Policy
 Industry Growth Division
 s22 @industry.gov.au

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians | We are collaborative, innovative, respectful and strive for excellence



Acknowledgement of Country

Our department recognises the First Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



OFFICIAL

From: s22 @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 10:32 AM
To: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

CAUTION – External Email: This email originated from outside the department. Make sure you trust this sender before opening any links or attachments. If you think this is an attempt at Phishing, please report by clicking the **Report Phishing** button above.

Good morning s22 and s22

I hope you are well!

I am assisting with the Biotoxins-related Illnesses Inquiry work and your contact details were passed on to me by my colleague, s22.

We have received some correspondence, referred from PM&C, relating to the implementation status of recommendations from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport inquiry into biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia. The Health Portfolio is responsible for monitoring the implementation of all recommendations from the Biotoxin-related Illnesses inquiry.

To help inform our reply correspondence, we would be grateful for your input in relation to the progress of the below recommendations that were referred the Building Ministers Meeting:

- Recommendation 2 - Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries
- Recommendation 4 - Research into building codes and standards for prevention and remediation of dampness and mould in buildings.

For context, I have attached a de-identified excerpt from the original correspondence.

Our draft reply (not yet cleared) is also attached for your reference, noting the information relating to the above recommendations may be outdated.

I would be very grateful for input by Thursday COB 21 September 2023, if possible.

Thank you and happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 1:30 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au; s22
Subject: RE: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: 328 data v1-0.xlsx

Hi s22

Please find some additional context for your response to the enquiry about aspergillosis and NHMRC funding. I've also attached the information on successful funding rounds that has pulled from the system in case you want to include different/more examples in your response. However, as discussed already the outcomes information from funded research is not readily available (or the grant might not be finished) so it might be better to keep it general if it is not clear how this funding has contributed to the body of knowledge.

I hope this helps you with your response – let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

s22

*

You may also be interested to know the National Health and Medical Research Council has funded over \$3.6 million on seven research grants relevant to aspergillosis since 1999. The funded research projects have aimed to investigate topics such as the causes and risk factors for Aspergillus infections and potential diagnostic tests and treatments that could be used to improve health outcomes from these infections. For example, nearly \$650,000 was awarded in 2020 for research administered by the University of Sydney and led by Dr Justin Beardsley that aims to investigate the burden of disease, diagnosis and therapies for chronic pulmonary aspergillosis infections in tuberculosis patients in Vietnam.

From: s22 @Health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 8:51 AM
To: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning s22

I hope you had a great weekend!

Thank you again for your time on Friday to discuss the below request for additional input. As discussed, any publicly available information or webpage links you are able to provide in relation to research activities and outcomes of NHMRC funded Aspergillosis research would be much appreciated.

Grateful for your help with this.

Kind regards

s22

From: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 September 2023 1:17 PM
To: s22 @Health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22 – yes happy to have a quick chat this afternoon.

Thanks

s22

s22

A/g Director, Environmental Health
Research Translation
National Health and Medical Research Council

s22 @nhmrc.gov.au

s22

nhmrc.gov.au



BUILDING
A HEALTHY
AUSTRALIA

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters around Australia and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

From: s22 @Health.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 1:12 PM

To: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

I hope you are well and have had a good week!

I just wanted to touch base on the correspondence mentioned below. I have been requested to seek some further information from NHMRC about the research activities that have occurred as a result of the funding figure noted below, and whether there are publicly available results or outcomes from the research that we can include in our response. Our draft response to the correspondence is below for your reference.

Would it be possible to please have a quick chat about this additional request for input? I am keen to get a sense of the timing from your end so I can manage the timeframes on our end 😊

I would greatly appreciate your help and please let me know if this afternoon would suit you for a quick chat.

Kind regards

s22

****Draft response**** (not yet cleared internally)

The Department of Health and Aged Care is developing a Biotoxins (indoor damp and mould) Clinical Pathway to assist general practitioners and other health professionals with the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with biotoxin-related illnesses. The clinical pathway includes information about aspergillosis related conditions.

The clinical pathway has been developed based on high quality published medical and scientific literature and in consultation with medical and consumer representatives. The clinical pathway is expected to be published on the department's website in coming months.

In addition, a fact sheet on the health effects of mould has been developed by the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth), a standing committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC). The fact sheet consolidates current jurisdictional advice on the health effects of mould and is available at www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/enhealth-guidance-potential-health-effects-of-mould-in-the-environment?language=en.

You may also be interested to know the National Health and Medical Research Council expended \$1.5 million on research relevant to aspergillosis since 2013.

****Excerpt from correspondence****

CWA of NSW urge the Australian Government to allocate funding to support research into Aspergillosis related diseases to enable medical professionals to better understand the causes, risk factors, and effective treatment options. CWA of NSW also advocates for the implementation of awareness campaigns to improve community and GP knowledge of Aspergillosis related diseases.

Aspergillosis is a group of fungal infections caused by the Aspergillus species. These infections can affect various parts of the body, including the lungs, sinuses, and other organs. While Aspergillosis-related diseases, such as chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and invasive aspergillosis, can have severe consequences, they often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed due to a lack of awareness among healthcare professionals and the public.

It is estimated that thousands of Australians are affected by Aspergillosis-related diseases. Despite its prevalence, there is a lack of resources dedicated to increasing knowledge about these conditions. This knowledge gap not only hinders early detection and timely treatment but also contributes to a sense of isolation faced by individuals living with these diseases.

CWA of NSW urge the Australian Government to allocate funding to support research into Aspergillosis related diseases to enable medical professionals to better understand the causes, risk factors, and effective treatment options. CWA of NSW also advocates for the implementation of awareness campaigns to improve community and GP knowledge of Aspergillosis related diseases.

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

From: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 15 September 2023 10:32 AM

To: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>

Cc: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @nhmrc.gov.au

Subject: RE: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good Morning,

Please NHMRC input below.

- Between 2013 and 2022, NHMRC has expended \$1.5 million towards research relevant to Aspergillosis.

Thank you,

s22

On behalf of the

Digital Communications, Media and Parliamentary Team
CEO Support Unit
National Health and Medical Research Council

s22 @nhmrc.gov.au

s22 @nhmrc.gov.au

s22 @Protected.Health.gov.au

s22



Australian Government
**National Health and
Medical Research Council**



**BUILDING
A HEALTHY
AUSTRALIA**

In the spirit of reconciliation, NHMRC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

From: s22 @Health.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:05 PM

To: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>

Cc: s22 @nhmrc.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>

Subject: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from s22 @health.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi s22

I hope you are well!

We have received some correspondence in relation to research funding into Aspergillosis and increasing GP and community awareness, and were hoping to seek your input please. I have provided an excerpt from the original correspondence below for your information.

****Excerpt from correspondence****

CWA of NSW urge the Australian Government to allocate funding to support research into Aspergillosis related diseases to enable medical professionals to better understand the causes, risk factors, and effective treatment options. CWA of NSW also advocates for the implementation of awareness campaigns to improve community and GP knowledge of Aspergillosis related diseases.

Aspergillosis is a group of fungal infections caused by the Aspergillus species. These infections can affect various parts of the body, including the lungs, sinuses, and other organs. While Aspergillosis-related diseases, such as chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, and invasive aspergillosis, can have severe

consequences, they often go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed due to a lack of awareness among healthcare professionals and the public.

It is estimated that thousands of Australians are affected by Aspergillosis-related diseases. Despite its prevalence, there is a lack of resources dedicated to increasing knowledge about these conditions. This knowledge gap not only hinders early detection and timely treatment but also contributes to a sense of isolation faced by individuals living with these diseases.

CWA of NSW urge the Australian Government to allocate funding to support research into Aspergillosis related diseases to enable medical professionals to better understand the causes, risk factors, and effective treatment options. CWA of NSW also advocates for the implementation of awareness campaigns to improve community and GP knowledge of Aspergillosis related diseases.

In a brief search of MRFF and other NHMRC research funding grants, I have not come across any publicly available information in relation to funding specifically for Aspergillosis research, however, we would be grateful for any input you may have. If there is no specific funding allocated to Aspergillosis research at present, it would be much appreciated if you could kindly provide some standard wording to this effect.

Grateful for your advice and input by COB Tuesday 19 September 2023.

Many thanks and happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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Unless explicitly attributed, the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Please consider the environment before printing this email, thank you.

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 10:43 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Draft response for review please - s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s11C - DRAFT response for review.docx

Hi s22

Many thanks for the opportunity to review. I have made some edits in track changes. I apologise that it looks like a bit of a mess but I know s22 is keen to keep responses as close to one page as possible. I do appreciate it was a long letter that covered a number of issues relating to mould.

As a lot of her focus was on building codes, standards and remediation matters I have limited the amount on health specific issues.

Happy to chat in the morning.

Kind regards,

s22

s22
 Director Radiation Policy Section

Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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From: s22@Health.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 5:32 PM
To: s22@health.gov.au>
Cc: s22@Health.gov.au>; s22@Health.gov.au>
Subject: Draft response for review please - s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

Hi s22

Please find attached for your review a draft response to s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation referred to us by PM&C. Original correspondence is also attached.
 I apologise for the delay in providing this. s22 has reviewed this response, and we are progressing up the line while awaiting input from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

For your background / reference while reviewing the draft response, please find attached:

1. Most recent email received from s11C on 22 September in response to s22 email reply on behalf of Secretary Blair.
2. Responses to input requests for this corro from:
 - Department of Industry, Science and Resources
 - Australian Building Codes Board
 - NHMRC

As mentioned above, we are awaiting input from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in relation to the implementation status of **Recommendation 2** of the Biotoxins Inquiry which relates to Standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries.

3. Biotoxins FAS brief from November 2022 estimates
This is the latest status we have on recommendations for the Biotoxins Inquiry (prior to our requested updates for this response).
4. A summary of the questions / topics covered in the original correspondence.

If possible, we would really appreciate your review and suggested edits by 10:30 am tomorrow, Tuesday 26 September please. I very much apologise for the tight turnaround. Following your review, we will then pass to s22 for her review and clearance. As mentioned previously, this response will be FAS cleared.

Thanks so much s22 and happy to chat further!

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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From: s22 @health.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 11:36 AM
To: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @health.gov.au <s22 @health.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

Super happy to have a look before it goes to s22

Kind regards,

s22

s22

Director Radiation Policy Section

Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
 T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22@health.gov.au

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From: s22@Health.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 11:25 AM
 To: s22@Health.gov.au>; s22@health.gov.au>
 Cc: s22@health.gov.au <s22@health.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22
 Thanks for your email 😊 that one is with me, and s22 I can send to you for review before it goes to s22
 Thanks
 s22

From: s22@Health.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 11:23 AM
 To: s22@health.gov.au>; s22@Health.gov.au>
 Cc: s22@health.gov.au <s22@health.gov.au>
 Subject: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hey s22 and s22

Im Just doing a check on PDMS docs to see how they are tracking.

Can I ask how -

s11C (Draft) - Referral from PM&C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation

Is going?

If possible, could we have a response by Friday.

Thank you both,

s22

s22

Executive Assistant to
 s22 | a/g Assistant Secretary
 Environment Health and Climate Change Branch
 Chief Medical Officer Group | Office of Health Protection Division
 Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

E: s22@health.gov.au
 P: s22

Work days | Mon / Wed / Thurs / Fri

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BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGED CARE

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 5:32 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: Draft response for review please - s11C - Australian Standards for Mould Remediation [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s11C - DRAFT response for review.docx; FW: Response to your correspondence [SEC=OFFICIAL]; RE: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]; RE: Request for input please - Inquiry into Biotoxins-related illness - status of recommendations [SEC=OFFICIAL]; RE: Correspondence input request - research funding into Aspergillosis [SEC=OFFICIAL]; 15. FAS Brief - Biotoxin-related Illnesses - Budget Estimates - FAS cleared.DOCX; s11C questions / topics [SEC=OFFICIAL]; s11C - original correspondence.pdf
Importance: High

Hi s22

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Thanks so much s22 and happy to chat further!

Kind regards

s22

s22

A/g Assistant Director – Environmental Health Policy Section
Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch

Office of Health Protection Division | Chief Medical Officer Group
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care
T: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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Subject: RE: Update for s11C [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

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Kind regards,

s22

s22

Director Radiation Policy Section

Environmental Health and Climate Change Branch
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

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s22

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s22

Executive Assistant to
s22 | a/g Assistant Secretary
Environment Health and Climate Change Branch
Chief Medical Officer Group | Office of Health Protection Division
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

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