

damien

From: damien
Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2008 2:25 PM
To: s22 @Health.gov.au'
Subject: Reimbursement for Serious and Potentially Hazardous OH&S Issues at Bega & Narooma
Importance: High

s22

Following on from our discussions I provide the following in addition to the submissions and correspondence already provided around this matter for OATSIHs consideration.

We received \$45,000 (2006/07) for the OATSIH Capital Works Scoping Project. Asbestos was identified during this project. Katungul then sought additional funds through OATSIH and Arup however we were advised no additional funds were available for this purpose. Therefore to obtain the extent of the Asbestos through the Katungul Bega Clinic that was originally purchased with Australian Government, OATSIH funding we had no option but to comply with notification. The total costs for these additional Reports that also formed annexes to the OATSIH Capital Works Scoping Project totalled \$24,369.20. Correspondence and reports have been previously provided to OATSIH.

In addition to this serious and potentially hazardous electrical issues were also identified (as per previous reports to OATSIH). These works totalled \$67,343.43 and were also identified via the independent OH&S Audit. There were also leaking ceilings, leaking walls, and leaking skylights that required urgent repairs (replacement and repairs of ceilings, roofs, walls and repainting) due to maintenance and age of the Bega and Narooma clinic buildings and lack of maintenance. These works totalled \$129,436.74. So far OATSIH has provided a one-off reimbursement of \$42,700 of available funds at that time, towards this and we thank & acknowledge this.

Obviously these costs have had a huge drain on our existing resources but had to be repaired due to the seriousness of the conditions of these buildings and taking into consideration the potential for public liability and risk management. Katungul is therefore requesting consideration of a one-off reimbursement that may be available for up to \$100,000 for this purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Damien Matcham
Chief Executive Officer
Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Community and Medical Services

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for



"damien"
<KatungulBOD@katungul.org.au>
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06/04/2009 07:27 AM

To s22@Health.gov.au>
cc s22@health.gov.au>, s22@health.g
s22@health.gov.au>
bcc

Subject RE: Wallaga Lake Asbestos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s22

Thanks for getting back to me from last Monday's email to OATSIH. I will respond to each of your sentences/comments/questions as follows:

In the first instance I just wanted to acknowledge receipt of your request and let you know that we are considering it and liaising with the ICC regarding appropriate roles and responsibilities

I was absolutely horrified to be informed at that meeting that people and Departments had known about this for some time, and us at Katungul not being informed as the only primary health care service provider providing weekly Doctors clinics to Wallaga Lake for many years now. I was even more horrified when I read the Minutes stating that no more time would be spent on the "asbestos issues". The issues of ESC erecting a sign stating "Asbestos Removal In Progress" noting that no removal in-progress and or planned also horrified us. Hopefully common sense will prevail now.

In regard to the environmental health issues (soil testing, remediation, etc) we understand that these are primarily the responsibility of the relevant State Government agencies - NSW Health, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, ect and that s47F is perusing this.

As the blame game will continue (Commonwealth & State and Eurobodalla Shire Council and Bega Valley Council), like it has for well over 40 years regarding this. Can we take the lead as the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service and with OATSIH as the Commonwealth funding department for Aboriginal Health since the health portfolio was transferred to DoHA from ATSIC on 1 July 1995.

Katungul would be seeking a one-off grant of up to approx \$20,000 (will have quotes hopefully today) to undertake various asbestos samples throughout the Community (where the asbestos is dumped in 3 locations and where the kids still play in it). This testing would also include several soil samples. I have (after last Monday's meeting) made contact with the Dust Diseases Board regarding the "Lung Bus" to come down to undertake the screening required. This can be done on-site at Wallaga. We are going to do this over 2 days and also be there on the day of our normal medical clinic at Wallaga plus extend for another day that week. As you will see from the "Lung Bus" unit requirements there are a number of technical issues there but this is achievable and we can do it.

I would think that the majority of the community will require and will undertake the screening. I have also attached for you information regarding the "Lung Bus" and also regarding asbestos that will give you more medical information and also information around follow ups and any other health issues.

I will also ring you this morning to discuss further.

Also on another note, we still have not received the one-off reimbursement OATSIH offered of \$75,000 (GST exclusive) for OH&S issues (as per your email dated 5th MAR 09 in response to our requests for this reimbursement dated back to OCT/NOV 08). Thanks Damien.

From: s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2009 1:23 PM
To: damien
Cc: s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au
Subject: Re: Wallaga Lake Asbestos [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Damien

s22 [redacted] is away this week and I'm filling in for her.

In the first instance I just wanted to acknowledge receipt of your request and let you know that we are considering it and liaising with the ICC regarding appropriate roles and responsibilities.

In regard to the environmental health issues (soil testing, remediation, etc) we understand that these are primarily the responsibility of the relevant State Government agencies - NSW Health, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, ect and that s47F [redacted] is perusing this.

With regard to the personal health issues (screening, etc) we are looking at what role OATSIH funded services might have in this. Would you be able to assist by providing some additional information on what Katungul is proposing. The following would be useful but any other details you think relevant would also be appreciated.

- What specific screening is proposed ie. types of clinical personnel and equipment required.
- Location of screening ie. is there an appropriate site available, would transport be needed, etc.
- An estimate of the number of people who might require screening.
- The proposed timeframe for the screening.
- What is proposed in terms of organising any follow up medical treatment for any health issues identified.

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss in further detail.

Sincerely - s22 [redacted]

s22 [redacted] s22 [redacted]
 Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
 Department of Health and Ageing (NSW Office)

"damien" <KatungulBOD@katungul.org.au>

31/03/2009 05:21 PM

To: s22 [redacted]@health.gov.au>
 cc: s22 [redacted]@Health.gov.au>
 Subject: Wallaga Lake Asbestos [No Protective Marking]

Hi s22 [redacted]

We would like to apply for some funding to engage professionals to undertake an environmental investigation and also for soil contamination testing at Wallaga Lake.

I also received a phone call today (as apparently people telling the papers/media to ring us) from the ABC and also the Sydney Morning Herald regarding the dumped asbestos (3 site within the Community) that that the community and kids are still and have been playing in for a number of years.

We would like to arrange this testing and to also arrange the required specialist medical testing and

Printed by s22 [redacted]