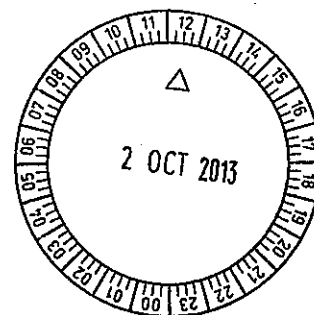




**Deputy Premier of Western Australia
Minister for Health**

Our Ref: 25-36067
Your Ref: Petition No 8



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
Deputy Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000


Dear Mr Dawson

Thank you for your follow-up letter of 12 September 2013 requesting an update on whether any cases of clinical effects from the chlorination of Busselton's water supply have been reported to the Department of Health (DOH) and, if so, their status.

I can confirm that, to date, despite two approaches to doctors in the Busselton area, no claim of clinical effects from the chlorination of the Busselton water supply has been forwarded to the DOH by a medical practitioner for investigation.

I am also confident that the communication protocol, established between the DOH, Busselton Water and medical practitioners in the Busselton area, is the most effective mechanism for discovering and investigating any alleged complaint.

I am advised that officers from the DOH recently met the lead petitioner and have received copies of approximately 30 written statements that set out adverse experiences that the authors believe are attributable to chlorination of Busselton's water supply. I am further advised that these statements may have previously been made available under confidential cover to the Committee.

Although these statements do not meet the DOH criteria for individual investigation, officers from the DOH have committed, in good faith, to carry out a suitable statistical analysis of them.

I have instructed the DOH to keep me informed on this matter and will advise the Committee further if the analysis of these statements yields any information relevant to the Committee's investigations.

I reiterate my previous advice that based on existing evidence from the scientific literature, there remains no plausible mechanism whereby drinking water with the minimal level of residual chlorine, as experienced in Busselton, would cause adverse health effects of the nature alleged by the petition.

I trust the information provided is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Kim Hames MLA
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1 OCT 2013