

MULTICHEMICAL SENSITIVITY**05 June 2006**

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Environment and Conservation, representing the Minister for Health, a question concerning multichemical sensitivity.

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: On 5 July 2005 the report of the Social Development Committee Inquiry into Multiple Chemical Sensitivity was tabled in the Legislative Council. The inquiry found that up to 6 per cent of the population may have MCS and concluded that MCS is very real and that many individuals experience considerable suffering, particularly in the light of lack of recognition surrounding this condition. In its response to the report tabled in November 2005, the government indicated that it fully agreed, or agreed in principle, with 10 of the 11 recommendations arising from the inquiry. Despite this, no practical action has been taken by the government to assist people with MCS, or to address this growing public health problem since. My questions to the Minister for Health are:

1. When will the Department of Health convene the recommended multichemical sensitivity reference group?
2. Will the MCS reference group be resourced with a full-time officer to ensure that real progress is made?
3. Will key groups in the community, such as the SA Task Force on Multichemical Sensitivity and the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society of South Australia, be represented in the reference group?
4. Which government agencies will be represented in the MCS reference group?

MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

Thursday 16 November 2006

In reply to **Hon. A.L. EVANS** (5 June).

The Hon. G.E. GAGO: In response to the honourable member's specific questions, the Minister for Health has been advised:

1. The Department of Health is currently seeking nominations from key agencies to the Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Reference Group.
2. The reference group will be appropriately resourced from the Department of Health.
3. The Department of Health is seeking nominations from the SA Task Force on Multichemical Sensitivity and the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society of South Australia.
4. In addition to the Department of Health, nominations will be sought from Primary Industries, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department for Families and Communities and Local Government.