

NSW Health response to questions on notice from the Orica Select Committee Inquiry

Question 1

Did you tell [Orica] to use the term hexavalent chromium in their script? I just want to know what steps were taken when you knew that this was the script proposal to rule it out.

NSW Health became aware of the existence of Orica's script at 19:31 on the night of 10 August when it was emailed to Dr Chant by Lisa Corbyn, Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage. By that time, NSW Health had decided to communicate directly with the community about the deposition of hexavalent chromium. Because of this, NSW Health had no further contact with Orica regarding the content of the script.

Question 2

You are saying that blood tests were not useful or valid and that you received advice that that was effective. Could you table that advice for us?

NSW Health issued a statement of its position on blood and urine sampling to GPs on 15th August (tab B). This statement was based on advice from the expert panel established to assist NSW Health in the public health management of the incident and which included Professor Alison Jones, an independent expert clinical toxicologist (tab C).

Question 3

Is there any similar early warning system [to the one recommended to Orica by the NSW Government] for a community anywhere else in NSW around similar facilities that you know of?

NSW Health is not aware of any early warning system for the community around a hazardous facility in NSW.