

**Submission
No 4**

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF EXPOSURE TO
POOR LEVELS OF AIR QUALITY RESULTING FROM
BUSHFIRES AND DROUGHT**

Name: Mr Grant Mistler

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Grant Mistler

14 February 2020

Dear Portfolio Committee No.2 – Health

RE: Health Impacts of Exposure to Poor Levels of Air Quality Resulting from Bushfires and Drought

Thank you for focusing on this new area of health research.

The recent summer events provide an opportunity to monitor the effect of PM2.5 and ultrafine particle exposure. I propose an Air Quality Centre of Excellence is established at a university with a dedicated Chair to expand the body of knowledge and increase workforce capacity in the delivery of appropriate and effective services through a focus on education, enhanced policy and targeted research.

Other disasters across the world have provided a cohort of participants that can be monitored over time to ascertain the long-term health and wellbeing effects of exposure, and the ability to compare and contrast those participants against a demographically matched cohort of people who were not exposed. As an example, I am thinking along the lines of the 45 and Up Study at The Sax Institute in Sydney, The Millennium Cohort Study in the United States, and the Health Effects of Arsenic Longitudinal Study in Bangladesh.

This is an opportunity for NSW to lead the world in becoming a clearinghouse of new and emerging information within this area of health research on PM2.5 and ultrafine particle exposure.

Many thanks in advance for your collaborative efforts here.

Yours faithfully

Grant Mistler