

## STATEMENT ON APVMA

I'd like to just begin by providing a short statement to update the committee on the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

~~As the committee is an~~

In November last year I ordered an independent review into the workplace culture at the APVMA.

This review followed serious allegations, raised at Senate Estimates, concerning the behaviour of a staff member of the APVMA.

On Wednesday last week, I received the interim report of this review, which contained additional serious allegations of misconduct, including potential breaches of the public service code of conduct and other potential breaches of the law.

I immediately referred those allegations to the appropriate authorities for further investigation.

I don't intend to release the interim report or to make any further substantive comments about what it contains.

I don't want to frustrate or prejudice future investigations and its important the rights of people affected are protected.

*I provided the committee with a private ~~briefing~~ briefing on these matters last Thursday which contained certain additional information*  
I am pleased to say that the APVMA Board has also taken *that I don't* action, in response to the interim report. *believe it's wise to provide in an open hearing, for the same reasons.*

The Chair, Dr Carrie Hillyard, is here today and able to answer questions about those actions.