

Hon John Hill MP

2012MSA-00473

Senator Claire Moore
Chair
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Moore

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2012 to Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, inviting the South Australian Government to appear and give evidence before the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee about the Low Aromatic Fuel Bill 2012. As the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister Caica asked me to respond on his behalf.

Low aromatic fuel has been a significant factor in the prevention of volatile substance abuse in remote areas of South Australia. The current voluntary approach has the support of the community and has been effective in controlling the sale of unleaded fuel in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

SA Health has been advised by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing that some retailers in the far north of South Australia, outside of the APY Lands, continue to stock regular unleaded fuel. Further, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing continues to negotiate the voluntary stocking of low aromatic fuel with these sites.

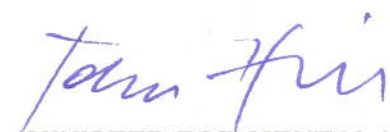
As you would be aware, the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has recently commenced an evaluation of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy. I am advised that SA Health will contribute to this evaluation.

The outcomes of the evaluation, together with the report from the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry, will assist the South Australian Government in determining its position on the potential mandating of low aromatic fuel in specific areas in South Australia.

I look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the Commonwealth Government to reduce the harms associated with volatile substance abuse.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Date:

13-8-12



**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Health
Minister for Mental Health
and Substance Abuse
Minister for the
Southern Suburbs
Minister Assisting the
Premier in the Arts
Level 9
11 Hindmarsh Square
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 2555
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 243
Telephone (08) 8463 6270
Facsimile (08) 8463 6277
Minister.Health@health.sa.gov.au