



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport

Inquiry into Biotoxin-related Illnesses in Australia

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Issue date: 17 October 2018

## Biotoxin-related Illnesses Report Presented

The Australian Parliament's Health, Aged Care and Sport Committee today presented its *Report on the Inquiry into Biotoxin-related Illnesses in Australia*. As part of its inquiry, the Committee received evidence regarding the possible health impacts associated with exposure to mould, and various types of symptoms that have been associated with *Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome* (CIRS).

The Committee Chair, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, stated that 'the Committee has heard a range of perspectives on biotoxin-related illnesses in Australia, including personal accounts from individuals experiencing multiple, often debilitating symptoms.'

The report outlines seven recommendations, including:

- the development and publication of a fact sheet, and undertaking research into, the prevalence, health impacts, prevention and removal of mould;
- the development of standards and/or accreditation requirements for mould testing and remediation industries;
- the provision of information for potential tenants about disclosure and rectification of any previous or existing mould issues in a property before entering into a leasing agreement;
- research into the adequacy of existing building standards and codes in relation to the prevention and remediation of dampness and mould;
- a review into the treatment of patients presenting with complex illnesses;
- research into CIRS-like conditions (to assist with diagnosis, management and treatment), as well as the link between mould and biotoxins and CIRS-like symptoms; and
- the development of clinical guidelines for general practitioners for the diagnosis, treatment and management of CIRS-like conditions.

The Report is available on the Committee's completed reports page at: [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Health\\_Aged\\_Care\\_and\\_Sport/completed\\_inquiries](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Health_Aged_Care_and_Sport/completed_inquiries)

#### Media enquiries:

Please contact Luke Barnes, Media Advisor from the office of Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, Chair, on 0422 726 621, or [Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au).

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