



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, ONZ KNZM FRSNZ FMedSci FRS
Chief Science Advisor

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister for Housing and Urban Development
New Zealand Parliament

15 December, 2017

Dear Minister Twyford,

In response to your request, the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor (PMCSA) will produce a report on **'Methamphetamine contamination in residential properties: Exposures, risk levels, and interpretation of standards'** by the beginning of May, 2018.

This work is aimed at providing clarification and ensuring public confidence around how to manage this issue.

The aim of the review will be to provide government decision makers and the general public with a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the available scientific evidence on the risks to occupants of houses previously used for methamphetamine production, or those in which methamphetamine was smoked by prior occupants. It is intended as a plain English translation of technical information about risks of secondary exposure to methamphetamine residues in places where people live. More specifically, the review will discuss what is known and not known about how levels of contamination translate to potential exposure and levels of risk, and what it means in the context of the current situation in New Zealand.

The review will also look into current practices for testing and decontamination in light of the available evidence on exposures and health risks. This synthesis should help inform your decisions and those of other parties on remediation requirements within New Zealand housing stock, and enhance public understanding of what has been a confusing and contentious issue.

The project will primarily consider the relevant peer-reviewed scientific literature from New Zealand and internationally, as well as reports published by respected scientific bodies (eg national academies, CRIs, etc) and any other data that has robust evidential quality. It will review the evidence that formed the basis of the recently released New Zealand Standard (NZS 8510:2017) and other current international standards.

The project will also involve interviews with relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts, including:

- Housing NZ
- Ministry of Health

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- DPMC
- Standards New Zealand
- MBIE
- NZ Drug Foundation
- National Poisons Centre
- Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR)
- NZ Environmental Protection Authority

We will also meet with some members of the drug testing and decontamination industry and seek reports or information from our equivalents in other jurisdictions.

The project is a major piece of work and will be managed by an experienced Research Analyst in the my office. Research and writing assistance by an additional contracted science writer will be engaged as required.

Although we have informally already started with initial scan, the projected timeline for the completion of the review are as follows:

Jan 22	Background research and identification of high-level headings
Feb 5	Submission of project outline for your feedback
Feb 12-26	Interviews with relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts
Mar 20	Completion of first draft and submission to selected domestic experts for review
Apr 2	Completion of expert review
Apr 9	Revised draft completed and sent to external (international) peer review
Apr 23	External review complete
May 7	Final report submitted to Minister

As we discussed, my office would appreciate some assistance to support this work, as we do not have a significant discretionary budget and this is additional to our already rather saturated workload. I would be grateful if you could approve an allocation ^{s 9(2)(b)(ii)} to cover the staffing costs and travel for meetings involved.

Yours sincerely



Sir Peter Gluckman ONZ KNZM FRSNZ FRS
Chief Science Advisor