

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Tuesday, 16 August 2016

4261. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Health

With reference to the operations of the Karratha Health Campus, how many patients have been assessed by the emergency department as a result of chemical exposure at:

- (a) the Yara Fertiliser Plant over the last three years;
- (b) the Yara Technical Ammonia Plant over the last three years;
- (c) on what dates did these assessments occur;
- (d) how many of the patients in (a) or (b) were assessed at the same time associated with the same incident;
- (e) what was the nature of chemical exposure in each case;
- (f) were all of the patients given the all clear to return to work immediately; and
- (g) if no to (f), what was the reason that the patient could not return to work?

Answer

(a-b) For the period 1 January 2013 to 16 August 2016, a total of 23 patients presented to Nickol Bay Hospital citing ammonia exposure. Medical records for all 23 patients have been reviewed and in all cases there is no indication as to the exact location of their chemical exposure. It is noted that one of the patients stated "ammonia exposure from fertilizer plant".

(c-g) [see tabled paper no.]



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(c) Date of presentation	(d) Number of patients presented	(e) Nature of the chemical exposure cited by patient	(f) Number of patients that did not return to work immediately	(g) Reasons for not returning to work
9 October 2013	5	Ammonia gas exposure	4	Symptoms of headache, nausea, chest tightness and diarrhoea.
14 August 2014	1	Ammonia gas exposure	1	Symptoms of fatigue.
29 September 2014	3	Ammonia gas exposure	3	Symptoms of fatigue, sore eyes, vomiting and headaches.
30 September 2014	1	Ammonia gas exposure	0	Not applicable.
17 November 2015	4	Ammonia gas exposure	1	Symptoms of headache, vomiting, sore eyes, fatigue.
3 February 2016	8	Ammonia gas exposure	4	Symptoms of headache, vomiting, sore eyes and fatigue.
17 April 2016	1	Ammonia gas exposure	0	Not applicable.