

20th July 2015

Professor John Catford
Hazelwood Mine Fire Board of Inquiry
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Re: Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry

Dear John,

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission to this inquiry. One general point which we would make which may be out of scope for your inquiry is that the responses should be in the context of other high risk communities in the state. We would very much like to see investment in the Hazelwood community, using well validated programs of which there are several both for diabetes prevention and cardiovascular disease and it would be preferable for the state to ensure that help is provided efficiently across several communities with need, including Hazelwood.

With regard to Hazelwood we would suggest that the key response should be enhanced and systematic assessment and access to establish primary and secondary prevention initiatives, particularly those relevant to heart and lung disease and diabetes. This should include targeted community based screening programs for risk factors and enhanced access to preventative initiatives including smoke free events, public spaces, housing and cars. There should be an emphasis on side stream smoke exposure to children and stopping the uptake of smoking in adolescence, smoking cessation programs with a particular emphasis during pregnancy, weight reduction and weight maintenance initiatives including even bariatric surgery where appropriate. We see value in primary health care based cardiovascular risk assessment and access to pharmacotherapy as necessary.

I hope these suggestions are useful and we would of course be pleased to expand on any of them as required.

Yours sincerely



Professor Garry Jennings AO
Director - Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute