

**IN THE MATTER OF
The Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry**

SUPPLEMENTARY WITNESS STATEMENT OF LINDA CRISTINE

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 Attention: Andrew Suddick

I, **Linda Cristine**, of 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Director, Inquiry Response Team, Department of Health and Human Services (the **Department**), can say as follows:

1. This statement is made partly based on my own knowledge, having made enquiries, and partly on information contained in records of the Department. This statement is made in addition to, and should be read in conjunction with my previous statement dated 18 August 2015.
2. On or about 27 February 2015 Dr Rosemary Lester retired from her role as Chief Health Officer. On or about 26 February 2015 Dr Lester sent an email to Dr Louisa Flander, Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, which advised the primary point of contact for matters regarding the two pieces of work commissioned as Dr Danny Csutoros, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of the Chief Health Officer.
3. As the primary contact point Dr Csutoros acted as a liaison point between the University of Melbourne and the Department. When commissioning expert reports it is usual practice for the Department to appoint a liaison person as a point of contact to coordinate the Department's feedback on draft reports.
4. I commenced in the role of Acting Director, Health Protection Branch on 20 March 2015 and remained in this role until 4 May 2015.
5. I attach an Organisation Structure as at 20 March 2015. This shows the relationship between the Health Protection Branch and the Office of the Chief Health Officer.
6. The work of the Health Protection Branch and Office of the Chief Health Officer is inextricably linked. The Senior Medical Advisors and Public Health Medical Officers from the Office of the Chief Health Officer are imbedded within programs areas of the Health Protection Branch.
7. In my role as Acting Director, Health Protection I was responsible for and had oversight of the work of the Health Protection Branch's eight program areas. This

included the commissioned works from the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

8. Dr Csutoros was one of two senior medical advisers in the Office of the Chief Health Officer and he was temporarily designated as a liaison person for the commissioned works from the University of Melbourne. Dr Csutoros was one of many people providing comment on the draft reports and a number of those persons had a direct reporting line to me.
9. On 11 May 2015, I was appointed the Director, Inquiry Response Team at the Department, including oversight and control of the commissioned works from the University of Melbourne.
10. I am able to answer questions about the Department's project management of the works by the University of Melbourne. I hold a very senior role within the Department and am well placed to give evidence about the project management of the works by the University of Melbourne.