

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health Disability and Ageing

Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

Inquiry into the extent, regulation and management of PFAS

10 June 2025

PDR Number: IQ25-000051

Conflicting evidence re 'cancer cluster' at Wreck Bay

Written

Senator: Lidia Thorpe

Question:

5. The committee has heard conflicting evidence about whether health data supports the proposition that there is a 'cancer cluster' at Wreck Bay.
 - a. Has the Department, the NHMRC, or any other entity conducted or commissioned any research into the incidence of cancer at Wreck Bay?
 - a. Does the Department or NHMRC believe there is any evidence of a cancer cluster in Wreck Bay? Why, why not?
 - b. Does data currently exist that could prove or disprove the assertion that there is a cancer cluster at Wreck Bay? If so, who holds that data?
 - c. If not, what further research could be done to determine:
 - I. if there is a cancer cluster?
 - II. and if any cancer cluster could be associated with PFAS exposure?

Answer:

- The Department is not aware of evidence of a 'cancer cluster' and notes that this matter was previously addressed in correspondence to the Chair of the Committee from the Minister for Health, Ageing and Disability and Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.