



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGED CARE AND SPORT  
Inquiry into Biotoxin-related Illnesses in Australia

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Thursday, 21 June 2018

## Inquiry into Biotoxin-related Illnesses Commences

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport has commenced an *Inquiry into Biotoxin-related Illnesses in Australia*.

The Committee Chair, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, stated that ‘the inquiry will examine the prevalence, geographic distribution, diagnosis and treatment of biotoxin-related illnesses such as Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS). The Committee will also examine available research regarding CIRS and illnesses caused from water damaged buildings in Australia.’

CIRS has been described as an illness caused by exposure to biotoxins such as mould, often in water-damaged buildings. Current research has indicated that up to one in four people may be genetically susceptible to biotoxin exposure, which can lead to CIRS. Reactions to mould exposure may range from mild to severe.

Submissions from interested individuals and organisations are invited by **Thursday, 2 August 2018**. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged [online](#) using a My Parliament account.

Further information about the Committee’s inquiry, including the full terms of reference and details on how to lodge a submission are available on the Committee’s [website](#).

### Media enquiries:

Please contact Luke Barnes, Media Advisor from the office of Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, Chair, on 0422 726 621. [Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Barnes@aph.gov.au)

### Background:

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport  
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