

David Elder

29/04/2010
06:33 PM

To <MCS@nicnas.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject Re: NICNAS/OCSEH draft report on MCS [No Protective Marking]

DOCUMENT NOT YET CLASSIFIED

Michael

Thanks for the opportunity to see this document, albeit under less than ideal circumstances and time frame.

From my reading of the document and the summary of revisions, I feel that whoever revised the document has gone too far “the other way” in trying to appease those who complained that the original document was too “psychological”.

I feel that it especially in the Executive Summary appears to favour a toxicogenic mechanism and downplays a psychogenic one. In the Summary this is highlighted by stating that the document examines “biomedical aspects of MCS”. I also note with some concern that the term MCS is not given simultaneously with EI or environmental illness. One of the parts of the workshop which I remember is the discussion that this is a biopsychosocial condition and to ignore or downplay each or any of these arms is to the sufferers’ detriment.

I do not have the time to put forward a more detailed response given the faulty consultation process.

Comments received from Faculty Fellows were generally supportive of the document (4 received) one of which I include verbatim at the sender’s request.

I am interested in others’ comments.

regards

David

Dr David S Elder FAFOEM
Occupational & Environmental Physician

DOCUMENT NOT YET CLASSIFIED