

**McKeagney, Jennifer M**

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**From:** Lapsley, Craig (DOJ)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 February 2014 6:43 AM  
**To:** McKeagney, Jennifer M  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Health recommendation re schools

noted and thanks

**FW: Health recommendation re schools**

Jennifer M McKeagney to Craig Lapsley

Cc Richard R Bolt, Nicholas J Pole, Geoffrey G Peterson

Hello Craig,

Just a quick note to give you a heads up on DEECD actions following receipt of advice from Rosemary Lester (see below).

- All schools in Morwell will be open tomorrow.
- DEECD is planning for temporary relocation of children from schools and early childhood facilities closest to the Morwell mine. In the main, these are located adjacent to or south of Commercial Road.
- There are 3 early childhood facilities in the area and two of these have already made the decision to close.
- There is 1 government primary school, 1 Catholic primary school and one independent special school in the immediate area.
- DEECD is liaising with the Catholic Education Office and Independent Schools Victoria regarding facilities in the area.
- Temporary relocations details, including transport arrangements, will be confirmed tomorrow with the intent of these occurring as soon as possible this week. DEECD is aware of the impact this will have on the community

DEECD is conscious of how the community may perceive this action, however it is the Department's view that this action is consistent with the public messaging from Health to find opportunities to take a break from the conditions in Morwell.

DEECD's South Eastern Victoria Region (Mark Anderson) is attending the public meeting at Morwell tonight and while he will not be providing details of specific schools until conversations have occurred with principals. He will advise the meeting that:

- All schools will be open tomorrow
- DEECD is planning for temporary relocation of students/children (as a very vulnerable group)
- A final decision will be made tomorrow (Wednesday)
- The Department's greatest concern is for schools and early childhood facilities located closest to the mine
- Good options for alternative locations do exist.
- Children/students should attend their schools/facilities tomorrow and further info will be given to families.

Jenny

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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

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From: Lester, Rosemary (Department of Health)

Sent: Tuesday, 18 February 2014 1:32 PM

To: Pole, Nicholas J; McKeagney, Jennifer M

Cc: Philip, Pradeep (Department of Health); Brook, Chris (Department of Health); Meagher, Julian (Department of Health); Cameron, Meredith (Department of Health); Alexander, Bram (Department of Health); Csutoros, Danny (Department of Health)

Subject: Health recommendation re schools

Dear Nick/Jenny

I confirm our discussion this morning regarding health recommendations for young children in Morwell.

At this stage we have clear data from EPA on the level and intensity of bushfire smoke. This has resulted in high level bushfire warnings over several days, however today the air is of better quality. We have more limited information about CO levels. However, on the basis that some children from one of your early learning facilities have reported symptoms which would be consistent with smoke exposure, and the fact that our recommendation has been for the past couple of days for vulnerable people to spend time out of the smoke if possible, we would advise that your facilities south of Commercial Rd (ie nearest to the time) are closed and/or have provision for temporary relocation of the children out of the smoke.

Happy to discuss further if necessary.

Regards

Rosemary

Dr Rosemary Lester PSM

Chief Health Officer

Health Protection Branch

Department of Health

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