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To Whom It May Concern

Terms of Reference for South Australia's Royal Commission – Our Role in Nuclear Energy

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is a peak public health organisation with a sustained history of evidence-based advocacy in opposing the nuclear industry. PHAA acknowledges the health risks associated with all aspects of the nuclear chain. Australia's involvement with the nuclear industry to date - in particular via uranium mining and atomic weapons testing - has resulted in adverse population health impacts.

PHAA is of the opinion that there should be no expansion to the nuclear industry in Australia and that existing nuclear projects should transition to a process of closing down. PHAA is seeking to participate in the current federal inquiry into national radioactive waste management.

In terms of the South Australian Royal Commission that is to take place, PHAA is of the following opinions:

- South Australia should not embark on nuclear power or enrichment programs
- South Australia should not expand its uranium mining industry
- Australia is currently seeking a long term solution to the management of its radioactive waste. This solution should not include the management of international radioactive waste. South Australia should therefore not be seeking to establish an international radioactive waste repository.

Terms of Reference: Recommendations

PHAA submits the following recommendations for inclusion in the Terms of Reference for the South Australian Nuclear Royal Commission:

- Thorough assessment of the health impacts on workers, their families and the surrounding local populations of all nuclear projects in South Australia to date including all past and present uranium mines, nuclear weapons testing sites and their surrounds and the Port Pirie Uranium Treatment Complex.
- Review of safety and health monitoring procedures for former and present nuclear projects.

- National and international review of evidence regarding health impacts of low level radiation exposure from nuclear projects including uranium mines, nuclear reactors, enrichment plants and waste repositories.
- Review of contaminated sites in South Australia including the legacy Radium Hill uranium mine, the Port Pirie Uranium Treatment Complex and Maralinga.
- Review of South Australia's nuclear waste burden including radioactive mining tailings.
- Consideration of proposals for storage or disposal of radioactive waste only in accordance with world's best practice principles.
- Assessment of the role of nuclear power in the energy mix for Australia in the next 50 years given a policy response that attempts to improve energy use efficiency and reduce energy demand.
- Consideration of the views of South Australians for the further participation of South Australia in the nuclear industry.

Given the significant public health issues at stake with consideration of expansion of the nuclear industry, PHAA considers it important that an independent public health advocacy organisation have the opportunity to be closely involved in the Royal Commission. PHAA considers that our members are appropriately placed to represent these issues and hereby request the opportunity to be involved in the Royal Commission as it unfolds.

Yours sincerely



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