## From:

Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Friday, 3 February 2023 12:21 PM

Re: Outbreak of TB on the APY Lands

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thank you
can you please print a copy of this email and put it in the AGs bag to note?


The first case was detected from members attending "Business" at Pukatja and the group are being monitored. Tracking is occurring for others who have iso been in contact with this group but who may now have returned to other communities.
As noted below the Minister will recti te a brief on this matter from Health and AAR will continue to update.
Thanks and happy to discuss.
Executive Director


Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
Attorney-General's Department
M: 6(1) Personal affairs
Level 16, Wakefield House, 30 Wakefield St, Adelaide, 5000
GPO Box 320, Adelaide, South Australia 5001

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From:
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2023 10:27 AM

To:
Subject: Outbreak of TB on the APY Lands

## OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi $\square$
You may be aware there has been an outbreak of TB on the APY Lands.
-
$\qquad$ advised me that screening is planned for Pukatja in the week beginning Mon 27 Feb.

- Professor Spurrier is likely to be on APY from Tues 28 Feb to Fri 3 March to support the screening.
- has been in discussion with $\qquad$ to plan a community meeting in Pukatja at 10am on Mon 27 Feb to discuss the TB situation and seek Anangu permission and support to work together in the response.
- A briefing is being prepared for the Health Minister which will also go to Minister Maher.
- It is likely $\quad$ will meet with you and me soon (possibly next week) to brief us on the matter.

Regards,


## Manager, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and West Coast

A/Manager, Policy and State-wide
Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
Attorney-General's Department


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From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:
Attachments:

## Tuesday, 7 February 2023 12:14 PM

FW: Copy of Brief - Tuberculosis Cluster in APY Lands Minute to Hon Kyam Maher.pdf

OFFICIAL: Sensitive


Subject: RE: Copy of Brief - Tuberculosis Clustering APY Lands

## OFFICIAL

Hi


As discussed and further to the briefing at the end of 2022, please see Minute to Minister Maker attached.

Keen to discuss next steps when you get a chance.

## Out of Scope



# Hon Chris Picton MP 

MINUTE

# INFORMATION ABOUT A TUBERCULOSIS (TB) OUTBREAK IN THE ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LANDS (APY LANDS) AND REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND RECONCILIATION 

Ten active Tuberculosis (TB) cases and one unconfirmed TB case have been identified in Aboriginal people between May 2022 and January 2023, why have links to the APY Lands. Of these cases, tragically a nineteen-year-old fromb Western Australia (WA) has died from disseminated and undiagnosed TB, It is likely that there are further undiagnosed cases in the APY Lands' communitieg ${ }^{2}$ cluster of cases of this size is highly unusual in Australia. There were only 77 cases of TB reported across South Australia (SA) in 2021 (and no cases in Abaliginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) and 78 cases in 2022.

TB is caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex. Australia reports approximately 1,300 cases of TB per year and has a notification rate of 5.2 7.0 cases per 100,000 population. Of the cases born in Australia, individuals who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait N\{ander are disproportionately affected. The Department of Health an*Aged Care Communicable Diseases Intelligence Strategic Plan for Control of Tuberculosis in Australia 2021-2025 aims to progress towards elimination of TBransmission within Australia.

TB can be associated with sigitificant morbidity and mortality. People with severe TB disease can require hospitalisation for extended periods (weeks) and develop ongoing morbidity due terB-related disabilities. TB in young children and those with significant comorbidites is of particular concern due to the increased risk of severe and disseminated edsease, long term morbidity and risk of mortality. Some people exposed to the RB bacterium develop latent TB, whereby the initial infection goes unnoticed, but they are a risk of development of active TB disease later in life. Persons with TB disease may experience economic difficulties due to inability to work related to ongoing health issues. TB disease is a health and economic burden, particularly if untreated and infections spread to other people in the community.

TB is a treatable and preventable condition. However, treatment of active TB and latent TB is prolonged (months). Incomplete adherence to the recommended treatment course, which has occurred in some of the cases, can result in development of drug resistant TB. To date, there is no evidence of drug resistant TB in the APY Lands outbreak, however, if this occurs in the APY Lands, treatment of these people will be difficult and will likely result in greater morbidity and mortality.

TB is a notifiable disease under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011. Public health and clinical management of TB is coordinated by SA TB Services within the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN)). The Communicable Disease Control Branch of the Department of Health and Wellbeing has recently begun providing support for the outbreak in the APY Lands.

TB is controlled through prompt detection and management of cases and screening of contacts. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination is recommended in children because of the increased risk of disseminated disease and TB meningitis in this age group. To protect health and prevent further TB illness in the APY Lands, the tristate area and broader South Australian, Norther Territory and Western Australian communities, a coordinated public health action has been initiated with a project plan under development. The following actions have been commenced or are planned.

- Engagement with impacted communities and seeking permiseign for the proposed response.
- Treatment of cases of TB.
- Reduced threshold for testing of persons with illnesscompatible with TB.
- Identification and screening for active TB and latent TB in identified contacts of known TB cases.
- Screening of children for latent TB througievisits to APY Lands schools and preschools, commencing with Pukatja and Pipalyatjara communities.
- Provision of BCG vaccination of chitren aged less than 5 years in APY Lands, commencing with Pukatjaland Pipalyatjara communities.
- Recommencement of BCG Lands.
- Provision of educationor community members and healthcare workers.

These proposed meashes will require significant engagement and consultation with the communities. Frefinitial visits by SA TB Services staff are planned to Pukatja and Pipalyatjaradre20. The objectives of these trips are to continue screening household contasts, review individuals with latent and active TB and to continue community liaison and education. APY Executive is meeting on 21 and 22 of February 2023 in Alice Springs. At this meeting an update on COVID-19 and the TB situation will be provided. Further to this, with the permission of community leaders, a whole of community meeting is scheduled in Pukatja on 27 February 2023 to provide an overview of the COVID and TB situation.

Nganampa Health Council (NHC) provides health services in the APY Lands. NHC involvement will be instrumental in the success of the project. NHC has expressed concerns they have insufficient resourcing and capacity to manage testing and treatment of latent and active cases in the communities.

Appropriate clinical and public health management of this outbreak is vital to prevent further morbidity and mortality. Given the recent increase in the number of cases and the implication for various sectors, the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has recommended consideration of a cross-government response as soon as possible, initially collaborating with Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation within your department, and the Commonwealth. The CPHO notes further government department involvement is also recommended with other agencies such as the Department for Education.

I have requested the Department of Health and Wellbeing engage with officers in vourdenartment to progress this response as a matter of urgency.

Chris Picton MP
Minister for Health and Wellbeing


## OFFICIAL

Done ()
Parliament and Cabinet Officer
Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector
Kaurna Country - Level 19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 |Attorney-General's Department I www.agd.sa.gov.au GPO Box 464, Adelaide SA 5001 |


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From:
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 1:58 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Copy of Brief - Tuberculosis Clusten APY Lands

## OFFICIAL

Hey
can you please workflow then AAR for $b+d$, I have already indexed (attached).
I have set a due date for 15 Feb, please mark as urgent.

I'll send you some more things shortly, if that's ok!
Thank you so much! (3)
Ministerial Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector Kaurna Country, L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Attorney-General's Department | www.agd.sa.gov.au GPO Box 464, Adelaide SA 5001|


From:
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 12:46 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Copy of Brief - Tuberculosis Cluster in APY Lands

## OFFICIAL

Hi $\square$

Could we please index and send to AARD for briefing and draft response. This is an urgent file.

Thanks, $\square$
Aboriginal Affairs Senior Adviser
Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Attorney-General's Departmentroww.aqd.sa.gov.au A GPO Box 464 Adelaide SA 5001। $\square$ m6 6 * Wersonal


To:
Cc: $\qquad$ Health:Minister for Health [ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au)
Subject: RE: Copy of Brief - Treerculosis Cluster in APY Lands
OFFICIAL

Hi


As discussed and further to the briefing at the end of 2022, please see Minute to Minister Maher attached.

Keen to discuss next steps when you get a chance.
$\square$
Out of Scope



## OFFICIAL

$\square$

Any concerns on the approach being raised here by $\square$

Thanks, $\square$

Aboriginal Affairs Senior Adviser
Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial Relations and Publif Soctor Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Attorney-General's Department I www and .a.gov.au A GPO Box 464 Adelaide SA 5001|


From: $\square$
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2023 9:04 AM
To:
Cc:


Subject: RE: Copy of Brief - TuberculczsCluster in APY Lands

Thanks
 - that sounds li following your discussion U (1)h the Dept.

From: $\square$
Sent: Wednesday, 8 February 2023 9:02 AM
To:
Cc: $\square$
Subject: RE: Copy of Brief - Tuberculosis Cluster in APY Lands

## OFFICIAL

Thanks $\qquad$

I'm keen to discuss Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Department for an update ASAP and we can then touch base. Is that approach ok?

Cheers

## Office of the Hon Kyam Maser MLC

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Attorney-General's Department I www.aad.sa.aov.au A GPO Box 464 Adelaide SA 5001| | M6(1) Personal affairs


From:
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 11:07 AM
To:
Cc: Health:Minister for Health [mpisterforhealth@sa.gov.au](mailto:mpisterforhealth@sa.gov.au)
Subject: RE: Copy of Brief - Tuberculosis Cluster in APY Lands

## OFFICIAL

Hi $\square$

As discussed and further to the briefing at the end of 2022, please see Minute to Minister Maser attached.

Keen to discuss next steps when you get a chance.

## Out of Scope



|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| From: | Wednesday, 8 February 2023 11:38 AM |
| Sent: |  |
| To: | TB on APY lands |
| Subject: |  |

## OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi $\square$

Could we please add to the urgent briefing a response to the following:

Bacille Calmette - Guerin (BCG) vaccine can be sued for TB control. It does not prevent infection but does decrease the risk of severe disease in children. There previously was a BCG vaccination program for newborns in the APY lands but his lapsed in recent years.

Why has this lapsed?

Thanks,


## Aboriginal Affairs Senior Adviser

Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial R\&lations and Public Sector Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 | Attorney-General's Desartment I www.agd.sa.gov.au A GPO Box 464 Adelaide SA 5001|


The Attom yatenorars Dapatment acknowledues Abotigicay niopla as tha list Australans. Wis pay curnernew, io them and tiolr chltaes, gnd to ther eders past, present and cuture.

Giltural diversity I nespect I helmaneness

## From:

Sent:
To:
Subject:
Wednesday, 8 February 2023 11:47 AM
MAA23-0277 - Minister Picton - TB APY
Importance:
High

## OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good morning

Could we please add to the urgent briefing a response to the following:

Bacille Calmette - Guerin (BCG) vaccine can be sued for TB control. It does not prevent infection but does decrease the risk of severe disease in children. There previously was a BCG vaccination prograncfor newborns in the APY lands but his lapsed in recent years.

Why has this lapsed?
Let me know if you have any questions.
Kind regards
Ministerial Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Mndustrial Relations and Public Sector Kaurna Country, L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000, Attorney-General's Department I www.agd.sa.gov.au GPO Box 464, Adelaide SA 5001 |


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| KE |  | CH |  |  |
| PS |  | EK |  |  |
| AO |  | RAC |  |  |

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

To: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Through: Chief Executive 17/02/2023

Correspondence from the Minister for Health and Wellbeing about a Tuberculosis outbreak on the APY Lands

## Issue

Between May 2022 and January 2023, ten active cases of Tuberculosis(TB) have been identified in Aboriginal people who have links to the APY Lands. Cemeperson has died.

## Timing

Urgent.

## Background

The Hon Chris Picton MP recently wrote to youladvising that Professor Nicola Spurrier, Chief Public Health Officer has recommended consideration of a cross-government response as soon as possible, initially colieborating with AAR and the Commonwealth. TB screening is planned for Pukatjarionte week beginning 27 February 2023. Professor Spurrier is likely to be on APY Lapes from 28 February to 3 March 2023 to support the screening. She recently met with her counterparts in Western Australia and the Northern Territory about tri-state coordipation in Central Australia.
SA Health will provide the SY Executive Board with a briefing about the outbreak and the proposed response at themeeting that may occur on 22 February 2023 in Alice Springs. Chairs of Community eouncils will also be provided with information.
SA Health has been in contact with to plan a community meeting in
Pukatja on 27 February 2023 to discuss the TB situation and seek Anangu permission and support to work together in the response.

## Discussion

I met with
from SA Health on 10 February 2023 to discuss the situation and proposed response. It is likely a government taskforce will be created and I confirmed AAR's willingness to participate. AAR will also provide advice as required.
Minister Picton's minute says:

- The bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination is recommended in children (in remote Aboriginal communities) because of the increased risk of disseminated disease and TB meningitis in this age group.
- Screening of children for latent TB will commence in Pukatja and Pipalyatjara.
- BCG vaccination for children aged less than 5 years will commence in Pukatja and Pipalyatjara.
- 2 -
- BCG vaccination will recommence for neonates (newborn children less than 4 weeks of age) who live in APY communities.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care provides the following advice on their web site ${ }^{1}$ :
'BCG vaccination is recommended for:

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander neonates in communities with a high incidence of TB;
2. Neonates and children 5 years of age and under who will be travelling to or living in countries or areas with a high prevalence of TB for extended periods;
3. Neonates born to parents with leprosy or a family history of leprosy.'

AAR asked SA Health when the APY vaccination program for neonates stopped and why. Their response is below:

- 'Changes to staff involved in the governance of the BCG policy فver the past four decades has led to uncertainty regarding the timing and reajon for the cessation.'


## Recommendations:

1. Sign and send the attached draft response to Chris Picton MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

/ NOT AGREED

Executive Director
Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
17 February 2023

## Attachments:

1. Draft response to Minister Picton
Contact: $\quad$ Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
Tel No: $\quad 6(1)$ Personal
[^0]
## From:

Sent:
Wednesday, 22 February 2023 12:37 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject:
APY Lands and TB
Attachments:
2.03 APY Lands - TB Cases_GPH reviewed (awaiting PJ review).docx

## OFFICIAL



Senior Adviser

## Office of Chris Picton MP <br> Minister for Health and Wellbeing

## 6(1) Personal affairs



## From:

Sent:
To:
Subject:

Attachments:
on behalf of AGD:Attorney-General
Thursday, 23 February 2023 2:46 PM
Health:Minister for Health
23MAA0053 - Ministerial Correspondence - Tuberculosis outbreak on the APY Lands
23MAA0053 - Minute to Minister Picton.pdf

## OFFICIAL

## Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, please find attached correspondence.

Kind regards,
Office of the Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs | Attorney-General | Minister for Industrial Relations and P®bye Sector L19, 10 Franklin Street Adelaide SA 5000 |Attorney-General's Department | www.agd. 58. gov.au GPO Box 464 Adelaide SA 5001|E attorneygeneral@sa.gov.au | P 73227050


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## To Hon Chris Picton MP

By email:

## Tuberculosis outbreak on the APY Lands

Thank you for the minute that provided information about the Tuberculosis (TB) outbreak on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Landscajra SA Health's proposed response.
I am pleased that SA Health staff are beginning their engagenent with Anangu by meeting with the APY Executive Board and the Pukatja ceømmunity. An important aspect of SA Health's COVID-19 response on the APY Rands was its strong connection with community. It is reassuring to see t175 approach used again.

I am advised SA Health staff met with staff fromaboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) in my department on 10 February 2023 to discuss the situation. AAR staff offered to provide advice and assistance erequired. If a taskforce is to be stood up, AAR would be willing to participate.

I would appreciate being kept inferned about the response.


## Hon Kyam Maher MLC

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

[^1]
## From:

## Sent:

Friday, 3 March 2023 2:01 PM
To:
AGD:Attorney-General
Subject:
Attachments:
Coroner's Finding - AGD -

## Categories:

Daily Mail

## Dear Attorney

In line with the requirement under Section $25(4)(a)$ of the Coroners Act 2003, please find attached a copy of the Coroner's Finding in relation to the deaths of

Yours sincerely

PA to State Coroner | Coroner's Court
Courts Administration Authority
302 King William Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

W Coroners Court - CAA (courts.sa.gov.au)
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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi3701h.htm

[^1]:    22
    February 2023

