

TOPIC 11 – EFFECTS AND THREATS OF RADIATION

Tuesday, 27 October 2015
Conference Room, Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
Level 5, 50 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Dr Helen Caldicott, The Helen Caldicott Foundation (11am)

Dr Caldicott received her medical degree from the University of Adelaide Medical School in 1961. She founded the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at the Adelaide Children's Hospital, was an instructor in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and on the staff of the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston until 1980. In 1978 she was the founding president of Physicians for Social Responsibility which was awarded the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. In 1978 she also founded Womens' Action for Nuclear Disarmament. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Linus Pauling – a two times Nobel laureate. In 2002, Dr Caldicott founded the Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI). Dr Caldicott is currently the President of The Helen Caldicott Foundation which arranges forums through which to provide information to the public on the risks of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. Helen Caldicott has made numerous television and radio appearances and has written nine books and peer reviewed articles on the health risks of radiation. She is paediatrician and a fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a member of the American Thoracic Society.

Topics to be addressed at this public session:

- ⊕ The nature and extent of the biological effects of radiation
- ⊕ Sources of radiation in the nuclear fuel cycle and the nature of the risks they present to human health

Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) (1pm)

ARPANSA is the Commonwealth Government's primary authority on radiation protection and nuclear safety. Its functions are multi-faceted and include regulation, research and promotion of radiation protection standards that are consistent across Australian jurisdictions and in line with international best practice. Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson commenced as Chief Executive Officer of ARPANSA in 2010. Prior to that, Dr Larsson worked in senior positions at the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. He has coordinated multinational European Commission-supported research projects (FASSET and ERICA, both on environmental assessment and protection) and has been a member of the OECD-NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) and the chair of the RWMC-Regulators' Forum. He is the Australian Representative to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and was the Chair of the Committee between 2012 and 2015.

Topics to be addressed at this public session:

- ⊕ The effects of radiation on both people and the environment
- ⊕ Sources of radiation in the nuclear fuel cycle and the potential impact of those sources on both people and the environment
- ⊕ Standards and strategies for protection against the harmful effects of radiation



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Professor Geraldine Thomas, Imperial College London (4pm, by video-link)

Geraldine Thomas is a Professor of Molecular Pathology at Imperial College London. She received her degree in Pharmacology from the University of Bath in 1982 and completed a PhD at the University of Wales College of Medicine in 1988. Professor Thomas established the Chernobyl Tissue Bank which provides infrastructural support for thyroid cancer diagnosis and research into the molecular mechanisms that underpin the increase in thyroid cancer seen after the Chernobyl accident. She has published extensively on the molecular pathology of thyroid cancer and is author of a number of reviews of the health effects of radiation exposure following nuclear accidents. She was invited to speak at the Expert Meeting on the Health Effects of Radiation held in Fukushima in September 2011, and was invited by the UK Chief Scientist's Office to join the UK-Japan dialogue on nuclear energy in 2012.

Topics to be addressed at this public session:

- ⊕ The nature of the exposure to radiation that could result from a nuclear accident
- ⊕ Key findings made by the Chernobyl Tissue Bank's research and their implications
- ⊕ Communication of those findings to the public