



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

6 MAR 2014

Level 19
147–163 Charlotte Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3234 1191
Facsimile +61 7 3229 0444
Email health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2204-13, tabled in Parliament on 11 February 2014, in relation to the ban on commercial solariums and the petitioners' request that the House uphold the *Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012*.

The amendments described in the *Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012* provided for a ban on the licensing of new commercial solarium businesses, but allowed existing licensed commercial solarium businesses to continue. At the time, it was expected that existing commercial solarium businesses would eventually be phased out.

The petition was posted after I announced, on 20 October 2013, the clarification that the complete ban on commercial solarium businesses would take effect on 31 December 2014. The complete ban is consistent with the approach being considered by the Standing Committee on Health (a Ministerial committee of the Council of Australian Governments) and with announcements made by other jurisdictions.

A further amendment regulation, the *Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No 1) 2013*, notified on 20 December 2013 gives effect to this complete ban, and is an extension to the amendments introduced in 2012.

The initial regulation of commercial solariums and subsequent restrictions were put in place in order to protect the public from the harmful effects of the ultraviolet radiation used in commercial solariums. Research undertaken into the health risks associated with the use of solariums has shown them to be linked to an increased risk of skin cancers, particularly among young people.

Significant resources have been devoted to public education about the dangers of tanning, including the use of solariums. However, there is still a proportion of the community, particularly young women, who continue to be frequent users of solariums.

The evidence indicates that the use of solarium is harmful to human health and that the morbidity and mortality associated with the continued use of solarium will increase over time. While the previous regulation amendment provided for the commercial solarium industry to end at some point in the future, it was considered that this should be expedited given the risks associated with the use of commercial solarium.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health