

## Date

May 2009

## Issue

Perceived impact of KIA operations on community health.

## KIC Position and Key Messages

- There is currently no evidence Kwinana industry has an adverse impact on the health of the local community.
- However, there is a community perception industrial emissions are responsible for incidences of health-related issues in the Kwinana region.
- Lifestyle factors have been independently identified as the principal influencers of community health in the region. KIC and its member organisations are involved in various initiatives to promote healthy living.
- Many KIC member companies have well established programs to promote the improved health of staff and families.
- KIC member companies will work individually and collectively to reduce emissions to the greatest extent that is reasonably practical.
- Air emissions are below (better than) current environmental standards. Industry is working to ensure that emissions continue to meet these standards in the future

## Background Summary

Some residents living in or near to the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA) have expressed the opinion that emissions from local industry are responsible for the region's lower than average health standards, whilst acknowledging that lifestyle factors do also contribute.

In response to these concerns, the state Department of Health commissioned a health status telephone survey of residents in 2004 and reported the outcomes in September that year.

The survey sought information on key aspects of resident's health and lifestyle. The conclusion, based on the survey results, was that socio-demographic or lifestyle factors were the dominant factors in explaining the reported conditions and symptoms.

KIC is keen that empirical evidence is used in any debate about health standards in the area and supports moves by both the Western Australian Department of Health and the Department of Environment and Conservation to monitor community health and air quality in the Kwinana Region.

This support has been financial though the funding of air quality monitoring, through participation in a children's health study and working with members to address issues of concern raised by both community groups and regulators.

The overall policy of KIC members is that industry will work to reduce the impact of industry emissions on the community if these are found to be causing a detriment, and that KIC will support initiatives by local and state government bodies to address community health concerns.

It has to be recognised that, to date, all studies conducted in the region into its lower health outcomes have shown strong links with community health and lifestyle issues rather than to any impact of industry.

KIC sponsorship of the Town of Kwinana's Healthy Lifestyle Caravan and health improvement initiatives of the Rockingham-Kwinana Division of General Practice are examples of industry's response to these findings.

## Industry Contact

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## Relevant Resource Materials

Department of Health, Health Survey of Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham, (September 2004).

<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/Publications/documents/kwinana/Kwinana,%20Cockburn%20and%20Rockingham%20Health%20Survey%20Report.pdf>

Department of Environment KIA Ambient Air Quality.

[www.dec.wa.gov.au/pollution-prevention/air-quality/policies.html](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/pollution-prevention/air-quality/policies.html)

[www.dec.wa.gov.au/pollution-prevention/air-quality/air-quality-data.html](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/pollution-prevention/air-quality/air-quality-data.html)